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Pakistani killed on Kashmir border

LAHORE, Feb 5, (Agencies): Indian border guards shot dead a Pakistani demonstrator today and wounded 13 people after the man ran across a ceasefire line to protest at Indian actions in Kashmir, Pakistani officials said.

The man crossed the control line dividing Kashmir, tore down an Indian flag and attacked an Indian guard with a stick, the deputy commissioner of Sialkot told reporters.

The unidentified man is the first to be killed on the heavily-guarded control line since widespread Muslim discontent in Indian Kashmir erupted into violence last month.

It appeared set to raise the stakes in a simmering crisis between India and Pakistan that diplomats fear could lead to a third war between them over Kashmir.

Pakistan army chief General Mirza Aslam Beg told troops in Pakistan's Azad Kashmir today, that Indian warnings over Pakistan's alleged role in the uprising had created an ominous political situation.

"Such threats have to be taken seriously and we will have to be fully prepared and vigilant to safeguard the frontiers of (the) motherland," the official news agency APP reported.

Today's shooting happened near the small border town Sochaitgarh at the southern end of the 1,400 km (870 miles) ceasefire line dividing Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

Early reports said a band of protesters from the town marched to the ceasefire line as part of a national strike in solidarity with "freedom-fighters" in India-held Kashmir.

As they approached the line chanting "Down with India" and "Indian imperialists," one man dashed across and attacked an Indian soldier.

Other soldiers of the Border Security Force opened fire, killing the man and wounding 13 others on the Pakistani side, the deputy commissioner said.

General strikes paralysed both Indian-controlled Kashmir and Pakistan today to press India to allow Kashmiris to decide their own future in a plebiscite.

In Pakistan all government offices, shops and businesses were closed and no buses were running in the major cities.

In Lahore and Rawalpindi, bands of slogan shouting youths built barricades of bricks and burning tyres to keep private cars off the roads.

At one intersection in Rawalpindi, a large group set fire to an effigy of Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh and beat it.

(Continued on Page 2)

Sharjah crown prince sacked

SHARJAH, Feb 5, (AP): The ruler of Sharjah has removed his elder brother as crown prince and deputy ruler, 21 years after the brother attempted a coup against him.

A decree read by the Sharjah state television last night said Sharjah ruler Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassim issued a royal decree abolishing the decree issued June 17, 1967 which appointed Sheikh Abdul-Aziz as crown prince and deputy ruler of the emirate.

The decree, also distributed today in the local newspaper Al Khaleej, said the decision was made "to crown the blessed efforts of the elder brother (President) Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan."

The decree, which did not name a new crown prince, added that the decision was made "to end estrangement and serve the general interests." It did not elaborate.

Sheikh Zayed is the ruler of Abu Dhabi and the President of the United Arab Emirates which groups Abu Dhabi with Sharjah and five other emirates—Dubai, Ajman, Fujairah, Umm Al Quwain and Ras Al Khaimah.

The 1967 decree appointing Sheikh Abdul-Aziz as crown prince and deputy ruler came after his effort to topple his brother was aborted, and was a compromise to end a two-week crisis which had threatened the entire federation.

Sheikh Abdul-Aziz had seized power in a palace coup while his younger brother the ruler was abroad on a visit to England.



Shio Reichman weeps upon hearing that his father was killed and his mother wounded during the bus attack in Egypt. (Reuters wirephoto)



Shamir (right) and Peres bow their heads in memory of the killed in the bus attack. (Reuters wirephoto)

Aoun breaks through Geagea in a tight corner

LF in retreat

BEIRUT, Feb 5, (Agencies): Rebel Gen. Michel Aoun's tanks smashed into a Beirut stronghold of the rival Lebanese Forces militia today, tightening the noose around Christian warlord Samir Geagea's seaside headquarters after a week of war.

Police said Aoun's tanks punched with blazing cannons to within 300 yards (metres) of the militia's sprawling Kassarjjan base in the working class district of Ain Rummaneh in Christian East Beirut.

Thunderous blasts echoed across the city as police said die-hard militiamen crouching in narrow alleyways fired armour-piercing rockets to try to blunt the armoured assault while fighters on rooftops hurled grenades.

Geagea has vowed that his militia, with 6,000 hardcore fighters and 30,000 reservists, will "resist unto death ... to end the dictator's reign of terror" in the Christian enclave north of the capital.

Witnesses in hills above the Christian sector, reached by telephone from Cyprus, said fighting was raging inside smoke-shrouded Aio Rummaneh south of the Karantina quarter where Geagea has his command post.

Aoun's paratroopers secured the key coastal town of Dbaye, 5 five miles (eight kms) north of Beirut today, the day after they seized it in fierce hand-to-hand combat.

The Lebanese Forces conceded that its 80-man Dbaye garrison, outnumbered and outnumbered, had been overrun and made a "tactical retreat."

Police said 59 soldiers and militiamen were killed, including nine of Aoun's officers, in Dbaye, with another 70 wounded.

Police said at least 277 people have been killed and 1,037 wounded since the fighting erupted Tuesday.

Among the casualties were 30 people killed and 117 wounded by shells that exploded in Syrian-controlled Muslim West Beirut, outside the combat zone.

Aoun was now poised for what was widely seen as a final two-pronged assault on Karantina by his estimated 19,000 troops from the north and through Ain Rummaneh.

Police said Aoun has regrouped his armour on the northern and northeastern flanks of Beirut's Christian sector for a make-or-break assault.

The maverick general's forces apparently broke through the militia defences in Ein Rummaneh after a two-day slugging match on the fringes of the Lebanese Forces stronghold that lies along the green line dividing the capital into Christian and Muslim sectors.

The US ambassador to Syria, Edward Djerejian, blamed Aoun for the carnage, castigating the maverick general's "personal quest for power" and urging him to "step aside."

A three-man mediating committee representing Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir called a ceasefire for 2:15 pm (12:15 GMT). But it collapsed like six earlier truce accords.

A Lebanese Forces communiqué charged that Aoun's forces mounted a large-scale attack on Ein Rummaneh "at the very moment the ceasefire was slated to start. Pitched battles are raging."

Aoun's command blamed the beleaguered Lebanese Forces in Ein Rummaneh for breaking the truce.

The capture of Dbaye was Aoun's first significant victory in the murderous showdown for

(Continued on Page 2)

Forgo grip on power: Gorby

MOSCOW, Feb 5, (Renter): President Mikhail Gorbachev asked the ruling Communist Party today to shoo out its guaranteed monopoly on power and predicted an era with other political parties flourishing in the Soviet Union.

His remarks signalled an unprecedented upheaval for the 20-million-strong party, sole ruler of the Soviet Union since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

Gorbachev offered a sweeping revamp of the party in his boldest attempt to overhaul the Soviet political system since taking the Kremlin leadership in 1985.

His blueprint for radical political change follows the failure of his reforms to get the Soviet economy moving and wage protests in Eastern Europe that have brought down old-style communist systems.

Responding to mass public calls for rapid change, Gorbachev told a key Communist Party meeting that growing political "pluralism" conduced to the creation of parties other than the communists.

He said the current constitutional provision maintaining the party's monopoly on power was inconsistent with reform.

The Soviet leader, quoted by the official Tass news agency, urged the party to cast off "decades of political dogma."

"This process (of political pluralism) can lead to the creation of some stage of parties," he declared, outlining ideas for a forthcoming party congress.

The United States, hailing yesterday's rally by hundreds of thousands of Soviet citizens, said today that its dream was for a multi-party system and a free economy for the Soviet Union and all people. (See Page 7)

Iran, PFLP praise attack as heroic 'Egypt responsible'

Hell and agony as 9 Israelis gunned down

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 5, (Agencies): As the bodies of Israeli tourists gunned down in Egypt were brought home today, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir declared Egypt responsible for the safety of visiting Israelis.

"It is not acceptable that Israelis will be repeated targets for killers exploiting the grounds of Egypt for carrying out their low and murderous deeds," Shamir told the Knesset, the Israeli parliament.

Shamir demanded that Egypt find the gunmen who attacked the bus about 37 miles (60 km) east of Cairo, bring them to trial and punish them "with the full weight of the law."

Nine Israelis were killed by the gunmen, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Earlier today, Israeli officials reported 10 Israelis had died.

"We see Egypt responsible for the safety and security of the Israeli citizens visiting Egypt," Shamir said.

In a telephone conversation Sunday evening with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Shamir said violence must be stopped before peace can be achieved.

"We must not allow crazy terrorists to torpedo the peace process," Shamir told Mubarak when the Egyptian President called to express condolences. Shamir also said peace efforts must continue despite the slaughter.

A group claiming to represent the Islamic Jihad in Amman and the previously unknown "Oppressed Egyptians" in Egypt took responsibility for the attack. The Islamic Jihad statement said the group wanted "to lift the peace process in the region."

Egyptian investigators said they found beside a road in the Nile River delta the white Peugeot station wagon used in Sunday's attack. They said they had clues to the attackers.

One survivor likened Sunday's attack to "hell." Twenty Israelis and an Egyptian remained under treatment for bullet and shrapnel wounds and burns after one seriously injured Israeli died.

The bus carried a total of 33 people — 31 Israeli tourists, an Egyptian tourist guide and the driver, also an Egyptian.

Israeli embassy spokeswoman Dorit Shavit told the Associated Press amid-morning today that nine Israelis died, 20 were injured and two escaped unhurt.

Egyptian officials and newspapers said the Egyptian tourist guide, Wadia Sorial, 27, was injured but the driver was not.

(Continued on Page 2)



An Israeli man runs into a plainclothes policeman who blocks him as he sprints to an Israeli Air Force plane carrying the man's wounded relatives back from Egypt. (Reuters wirephoto)

Craig arrives in Kuwait

KUWAIT, Feb 5, (Kuna): British Army Chief of Staff Air Marshal David Craig arrived in Kuwait today for two days of talks with Kuwaiti leaders and his counterpart.

He said in an arrival statement that in his first visit to Kuwait he will underline continuity of contacts between the British and Kuwaiti armed forces.

He added that he will discuss with Kuwaiti leaders a variety of issues of joint interest.

He was greeted at the airport by the Kuwaiti Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mezyad Al Sana, ranking army officers and British ambassador here Peter Hinchcliffe.

Weather

FAIR weather with light to moderate north westerly wind.

State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 11.00 am, 8.00 pm

Low water: 3.00 am, 2.00 pm

Sunrise: 6.35 am

Sunset: 5.30 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 16°C 61°F

Ahmad: 15°C 59°F

Falaka: 16°C 61°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 8°C 46°F

Ahmad: 11°C 52°F

Falaka: 11°C 52°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 16°C 61°F

Ahmad: 15°C 59°F

Falaka: 15°C 59°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 87 per cent

Ahmad: 88 per cent

Falaka: 84 per cent

Aquino backs return of death penalty

MANILA, Feb 5, (Reuters): Philippine President Corason Aquino, angered by the rape and violent murder of two children, says she wants the death penalty reinstated, four years after her government abolished it.

Aquino urged swift passage of a law reviving capital punishment for heinous crimes after attending a service for Nikki Ann Noblez, nine, and her sister, Angeli Ann, seven, who were raped and bashed to death by a drug addict on January 26.

"We cannot afford another tragedy like this," Aquino said after viewing the bodies yesterday in the northern province of Pangasinan.

The Aquino government did away with the death penalty when it rewrote the constitution in 1986, just after toppling then President Ferdinand Marcos. The abolition of the law stemmed from a national clamour for human rights following the Marcos regime's alleged widespread abuses.

Military leaders have also urged the return of the death penalty, saying tougher laws were needed to combat criminals and discourage coup attempts.

Aquino was nearly overthrown in an army revolt last December, the sixth and most serious coup attempt she has faced in her four years in office.

Broad-based govt in East Germany

EAST BERLIN, Feb 5, (Reuters): East Germany's Parliament agreed today to include eight opposition figures to a new government in which communists are in the minority for the first time in 40 years.

In a televised vote the Parliament, or Volkskammer, voted to approve Prime Minister Hans Modrow's broader-based government of "national responsibility."

The eight new cabinet members are ministers without portfolio and join the existing 26-strong administration.

(See Page 7)

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Lebanon's Christians feuding for long time

NICOSIA, Feb. 5, (AP): The fighting between rebel Gen. Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea is one of the bloodiest feuds in the seemingly endless power struggle that has long splintered the Maronite Catholics, Lebanon's dominant Christian sect.

Police say 210 people have been killed and nearly 1,000 wounded since Tuesday amid widespread destruction.

Since the civil war began in April 1975, the Christians have sought to present a united front against the Muslims and leftists, who have been supported for much of the time by Syria, Iran and Libya.

Unlike the constantly squabbling Muslims, whose vendettas have repeatedly erupted into pitched battles in Beirut and south Lebanon, the Christians have largely been able to paper over their disputes. But they have never been able to completely mask their rivalries.

The Maronites are the only Christians in the Middle East who have ever held power. But their days may now be numbered as they fight among themselves, ringed by hostile Syrian-backed forces in an enclave north of Beirut.

Although Maronites have dominated the army, government, parliament and judiciary since independence from France in 1943, the military has

largely stayed out of the civil war.

It did not seriously get embroiled in the bloodshed until last year, when Aoun, the army commander, ordered his troops into action against the Syrians as well as sporadic clashes with Geagea's powerful Lebanese forces, the Christians' main militia.

Aoun considers himself the only legitimate authority in Lebanon after outgoing President Amin Gemayel appointed him interim prime minister in September 1983 — even though a new president, Elias Hrawi, was elected last November.

The power struggle in the Christian camp has centered on the three key Maronite dynasties, the

Gemayels, Chamoun and Frangieh.

Each had their own private armies and controlled lucrative rackets and political influence in Parliament. Each of the families produced presidents.

The rivalry between these clans has claimed hundreds of lives in the last decade and a half. Like the unending internal conflicts in the Muslim camp, the violence underlines the fragility of the concept of nationalism to which all the factions have traditionally allowed allegiance.

The right-wing Phalangists of the late Sheik Pierre Gemayel first clashed in earnest with the Tigers militia of former President Camille

Chamoun in February 1976, 10 months after the civil war broke out.

That confrontation was quickly suppressed, but the seeds of future bloodshed were planted. As the civil war dragged on, the Gemayels moved to seize control of the Maronite camp. Gemayel's charismatic youngest son, Bashir, emerged as their military leader and in 1978 he began to eliminate his rivals.

His first target was the Frangiehs, who controlled a freedom in north Lebanon with its capital in the mountain town of Zghorta.

The Frangiehs were blocking Phalangist efforts

to muscle in on their rackets in the north and by allying themselves with the Syrians. Scores of militiamen were killed in shootouts.

On June 13, Bashir sent a 100-man force to attack former President Suleiman Frangieh's summer palace at Ehden, 65 miles (105 kilometers) north of Beirut.

The pre-dawn assault was led by a young former medical student and policeman's son who had impressed Bashir with his ruthlessness. His name: Samir Geagea.

The Phalangists slaughtered Frangieh's oldest son, Tony, his wife Vera, their three-year-old daughter Jehane and 30 bodyguards.

Aoun tightens noose

Geagea HQ under tank attack

(Continued from Page 1)

control of the Christian enclave, where an estimated 1 million people live.

Aoun's forces, who already hold the highway linking Karantina to Lebanese Forces bases in the northern ports of Jounieh and Byblos, are now able to interdict Geagea's maritime supply line.

"By taking Dbaye, a major Lebanese Forces armour base, the general has destroyed the militia's rear lines before turning for a frontal assault," oo Karantina, Beirut's independent An Nahar daily said.

Its publisher, Ghassan Tueini, denounced Aoun and Geagea in a front-page editorial as "madmen dancing around the fire... to build a republic of graves."

Shells hit hospitals, schools, and churches today and set fuel tanks, power plants, factories and apartment buildings on fire.

These are burning out of control. The civil defence department said fire brigades have no water to fight the fires because all Beirut's pumping stations have been knocked out.

Several hospitals, where victims are being treated in crowded corridors, warned they would not be able to function for more than two or three days because water, blood, plasma and oxygen supplies are virtually exhausted.

The shellfire slackened in some districts at dawn, allowing tens of thousands of civilians to venture out from basements and under-



Two Muslim men clear street in west Beirut of concrete blocks that littered the narrow alley after several shells hit the area. (Reuters wirephoto)

ground bomb shelters in some areas for the first time in six days.

"I'm stunned," said Youssef Khazao, 35, whose electrical tools store in the East Beirut residential district of Ashrafieh was gutted.

"You can't believe what those monsters have done to us. They've ruined us. Ashrafieh looks like it was hit by a hurricane," he told the

Associated Press by telephone.

President Hrawi, said today: "Aoun should step down to halt the bloodbath."

He said his government will not intervene to stop the fighting by force "unless people of the area appeal for such a move."

"We don't want to see more killing in Lebanon," Djerrjan said in a statement in Damascus, Syria's capital. "The Hrawi

presidency offers Lebanon no possibility. Aoun offers disunity."

Hrawi's veteran Prime Minister, Salim Hoss, a Sunni Muslim respected by many Christians, told the Christian sector in a radio address: "My heart is bleeding for the unimaginable plight you are suffering at the hands of executioners disgracing the human race."

US, UK condemn killing of Israelis

(Continued from Page 1)

Ms Shavit said eight Israelis died Sunday — six instantly and two on the way to hospital at the Suez Canal city of Ismailiya.

One of the injured Israelis died early today at a Cairo hospital, she said.

An Israeli official in Jerusalem initially said a 10th fatality succumbed to wounds aboard a C-130 Hercules transport plane flown to Cairo to evacuate 16 wounded to Israel.

But the official later admitted he made a mistake and that the death toll stood at nine.

A statement issued by Mubarak said the attack was "directed primarily" against current US-led Middle East peace efforts. He denounced it as "a monstrous aggression."

Another statement from Egypt's Interior Ministry said two gunmen who raked bus passengers with automatic fire and hand grenades "spoke in a non-Egyptian accent," suggesting that they were either Palestinians or from other Arab countries.

Authorities immediately tightened up security in Cairo's southern suburb of Maadi, where many Israeli diplomats live. Police threw up barricades and checked cars in the suburb, where Egyptian gunmen attacked Israeli diplomats in 1984 and 1985.

A state of alert was also declared in Egypt's sea and air ports to prevent the gunmen from fleeing outside the country.

Egyptian police today questioned the Palestinian driver of the Israeli tourist bus attacked by masked gunmen, security sources said.

They said police were investigating possible collusion between the driver, of the bus and the driver of the white Peugeot 505 used to ambush it on Sunday.

The sources said both men were Palestinians from the Rafah area, straddling the border with the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

The sources told Reuters that security forces were still hunting the Peugeot driver and two other men, a Syrian and a Palestinian with Jordanian nationality.

The bus driver was from the Egyptian side of the border and had taken Egyptian nationality 10 years ago, the sources said.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency said the bus driver was taken to the scene of the attack along with the abandoned Peugeot in an attempt to reconstruct the ambush.

Police released three men held today for six hours on suspicion of involvement in the attack, security sources said.

They said Saudi passports carried by the men, first believed to be forgeries, had been found to be genuine.

A consular official from the Saudi Arabian embassy had intervened and the men were released after six hours in detention, the sources said.

The radio of a radical Palestinian group said today the militant Islamic Jihad movement carried out the attack on a bus in Egypt.

Operated by the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), the Al Quds (Jerusalem) radio said: "The Islamic Jihad movement — Beit Al Maqdis — presents this small operation to the chaste souls of the martyrs of the intifada (uprising) in Palestine."

Islamic Jihad also claimed responsibility in a handwritten statement to an international news agency in the

(Continued on Page 11)



A view of the damaged bus after the attack. (Reuters wirephoto)



Cooper an Israeli pediatrician, wounded in the eye waits in an ambulance outside a Cairo hospital. (Reuters wirephoto)



An Egyptian soldier stands guard as some officials inspect a Peugeot 505 car which was found near the attack. (Reuters wirephoto)

Daughter's cries float in the air

'Mother, mother'

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5, (Agencies):

Screaming "mother mother" an Israeli woman smashed through a window at Tel Aviv airport to try to reach the wounded victims of the tourist bus attack in Egypt as they were carried from an air force plane.

Her cries carried across the runways, shattering the silence, as medics carefully unloaded 16 wounded and two dead from the Hercules transport plane today.

Eight other dead were due to be flown home later.

An airport spokesman said the woman and her father smashed through a plate glass window in the terminal where relatives were being kept while the casualties were being ferried to hospital.

"Ina, Ina (mother, mother)" she screamed as police wrestled the two to the ground.

They struggled free and were forced to the ground a second time before an ambulance took the hysterical daughter away.

Officials said later her mother was among the wounded survivors.

It took an hour to carry the victims out the gaping cargo door of the Hercules, each taken on a stretcher to a waiting ambulance and rushed off to hospitals.

Hundreds of army medics, government officials and journalists stood outside — kept well back from the victims — and the relatives of the dead and wounded waiting inside the terminal.

Most of those anxiously waiting did not know the condition of their relatives and some angrily told reporters to leave them alone.

Hezi Yehuditi, a well-known Israeli writer waited for news on her sister and brother-in-law. All she had heard was that her sister was wounded.

"I don't know what happened to my brother in law," Yehuditi said.

Face-to-face with gunmen: A 60-year-old passenger dodged bullets and hand grenades to escape the Israeli death bus, only to come face-to-face with two of the men behind the attack.

"One opened fire and the other had no weapon," Noami Lahav told Army Radio aboard the emergency flight bringing back survivors of Sunday's attack on an Israeli tourist bus.

"I jumped on them immediately and... I managed to throw a punch at the one with a gun," he said. "He stepped back a bit but quickly aimed his rifle at me."

"I didn't manage to get to him. He fired at me and I fell," Lahav, who praised an Egyptian doctor who stopped on the road and hospital staff, said they were about 50 km (30 miles) from Cairo when the bus stopped.

"There were some hand grenades that blew up in my face and I don't know how I wasn't injured by them. I managed to leap out through the back door."

But a gunman was waiting. After Lahav was shot, he lay helpless, his face against the ground.

"I heard him firing over me. He was standing right next to me and shooting into the bus many, many bullets," Lahav told the army reporters. "There were explosions and many shouts from the wounded."

We were all singing: One survivor, who returned to Israel on a regularly scheduled El Al flight overnight, told Israel Radio that the busload of Israeli tourists was singing along to a taped cassette of popular Israeli songs when gunfire and tragedy struck on the desert road to Cairo.

"We were all singing with the cassette... and heard a loud noise," said the survivor, Rina Cooper. "It turned out to be bullets."

Mrs. Cooper said that as passengers dived for the floor, "the cassette continued and the shots were heard, grenades exploded and it was really macabre."

"We're here in the airport with their three children waiting, and I don't know," Lahav said.

Limor Bukai, the daughter of Ona Bukai of Tel Aviv, who was wounded in the bus attack, told reporters she was concerned about her mother's trip.

"I told her not to go," Miss Bukai said. "I think it (Egypt) is not a safe place for Israelis. She wanted me to go with her, but I wouldn't."

A survivor, Rivka Benzer, told Israel Radio: "Really, it was hell. I don't know how some people survived."

Ms Benzer said that as the attack was in progress, the rear door of the bus opened and Egyptian militiamen on the vehicle were told to get off.

Kashmir grinds to a halt

Zia's son calls for jihad against India

(Continued from Page 1)

with sticks to chants of "Indian dogs go back."

The authorities in Pakistan's biggest city Karachi posted dozens of armed police around the Indian consulate to prevent a repetition of trouble last Friday when 12 people were shot and wounded as they tried to march on the mission.

India accuses Pakistan of directly supporting the Muslim uprising in which more than 60 people died last month.

The row has plunged relations between the two countries to their lowest point since Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto took office in late 1988.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Sher Afghan Nizai told a specially-convened sitting of the National Assembly on Kashmir that he feared India would impose a war on Pakistan "if it finds things very difficult in Kashmir."

Veteran opposition politician Nawazad Nasrullah Khan accused India of imperialistic designs but

criticised Pakistan's Foreign Ministry of being too slow to react to the Kashmir crisis.

Ijaz ul-Haq, the son of Pakistan's former President Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, addressed the demonstrators and called for a "jihad," or holy war, against India.

Zia's son condemned Benazir's government for what it called inaction.

"Our present government is not able to fight for Kashmir," said Ijaz speaking in Pakistan's native Urdu language. "We should fight for them and announce a jihad for Kashmir," he said.

He likened Muslim militants in Jammu-Kashmir to Afghan insurgents fighting to topple successive communist governments in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Zia was a staunch supporter of US-backed Afghan insurgents, who call themselves mujahideen or Islamic "holy warriors."

The militancy of the speakers at today's rally ran contrary to the conciliatory attitude taken by Ghulam Ishaq, the leader of Pakistan's

parliamentary opposition at a news conference earlier in the day.

"The nation stands united on the Kashmir issue," he said.

The opposition's call for a 24-hour strike was met by a government announcement that today would be a national holiday in sympathy with the Muslim separatists.

In the Jammu and Kashmir winter capital of Srinagar, streets were virtually deserted of pedestrians, although large numbers of combat-ready troops and police remained deployed.

An absence of public transport prevented most bank and government workers from getting to their jobs, employees reported. Most other residents remained indoors.

In the most serious incident today, separatist snipers opened fire on

about 10 members of the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force in the Saraf Kadal area of Srinagar, 400 miles (640 km) north of New Delhi, injuring one officer.

The patrol returned fire. Two bystanders were caught in the cross fire and wounded, police and witnesses said. The injured were taken to a hospital for treatment.

Indian External Affairs Minister Under Kumar Gujral said today, his country was not heading for war with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue, but added "we are capable of defending the country" if the war is imposed on us.

Gujral said it is unfortunate that some ruling elite in Pakistan were hesitant in seeing major changes in the world and in India's foreign policy.

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Kashmir

Scientists to scan space for alien life

PASADENA, California, Feb 5, (AP) — The search for intelligent life in space soon will expand to the entire universe when Argentina gets a high-tech radio receiver to listen for signals from the regions of space visible from the Southern Hemisphere.

"There are so many stars like the sun that it's impossible to think the sun is the only one that has life on an orbiting planet," said Raul Colomb, director of Argentina's Institute of Radioastronomy.

The Planetary Society — a Pasadena-based nonprofit group that advocates space exploration — raised \$150,000 from its 125,000 members in 70 nations to pay for the sophisticated radio signal analyzer, named Megachannel Extra-terrestrial Array II.

The size of two large refrigerators, Meta II will be flown to Colomb's institute in two to three weeks, said Thomas McDonough, co-ordinator of the planetary society's part of the world-wide search for extraterrestrial intelligence programme, known as SETI.

Two Argentine engineers have been building the device at the Harvard-Smithsonian Oak Ridge Observatory in Harvard, Massachusetts, West of Boston.

Since 1985, the planetary society's identical Meta receiver at Oak Ridge has scanned the space visible from the Northern Hemisphere seeking a radio signal from an alien civilisation.

Steven Spielberg, director of the film "ET, The Extra-Terrestrial," donated \$100,000 for the first Meta project, which is the world's most powerful operating SETI system.

Research

Such research began in 1960. Since then astronomers have conducted more than 50 separate but mostly limited searches for any radio waves that may have been intentionally beamed into space by intelligent extraterrestrials.

Scientists would know they discovered an alien civilisation if they found an ultranarrow frequency signal, which the laws of physics say couldn't come from any natural phenomenon or earthly source, McDonough said.

Almost all previous searches listened to Northern Hemisphere space, with only brief, partial scans of the Southern Hemisphere from Australia and Colomb's institute, in a park 30 miles (48 kilometres) southeast of Buenos Aires. The centre of our Milky Way Galaxy is visible only from the Southern Hemisphere.

Tests of Meta II will start in June after the 8.4 million-channel receiver is hooked to one of the Argentine institute's two dish-shaped, 98-foot-wide (30-metre-wide) radiotelescope antennas.

By its dedication on Oct 12 — the holiday commemorating Christopher Columbus' discovery of the new world in 1492 — the device will spend at least 12 hours daily for three or more years listening for signs that humanity is not alone.

With both Meta receivers working, the planetary society will be conducting "the first systematic search of the universe as a whole for signals from another civilisation," McDonough said.

"This could be the system that makes the first contact with another civilisation," Colomb said. "It will change everything in the world."

"Man has always asked who we are and where we are going, and this part of the answer," said Colomb.

Lung-assist transplantee critical

SALT LAKE CITY, Feb 6, (UPI) — The first recipient of an experimental device designed to give a person dying of lung disease time to heal was in critical condition, the doctors said.

The patient, reportedly a 16-year-old girl with less than a 10 per cent chance of living with normal treatment, remained in critical condition late yesterday, a spokesman at LDS hospital said.

Nursing supervisor Richard Smith said the device — which performs the lung's function of exchanging gases in blood and is called an intra-vascular oxygenator, or IVOX — was inserted in a vein in the unidentified patient's groin and threaded into the vein supplying her heart in a two-hour

operation Friday afternoon.

Doctors stressed that the temporary implant is not a replacement for the lungs, but only a device that surgeons hope will give damaged or diseased lungs time to heal.

"Calling it an artificial lung is like saying glasses are an artificial eye," said Dr. Terry Clemmer, the hospital's chief of critical care.

The hospital, abiding by a request by the family, declined to identify the patient, but a source who asked not to be identified said the patient is a 16-year-old girl.

Doctors warned that it will take several months to evaluate the importance or success of the device.

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Study on what makes twins different

Confidence: partly genetic, partly experience

STOCKHOLM, Feb 5, (AP) — Some people are born with the belief that they are masters of their own lives. Others feel they are at the mercy of fate.

New research shows that part of those feelings are in the genes.

Psychologists have long known that people confident in their ability to control their destinies are more likely to adjust well to growing old than those who feel that they drift on the currents

of fate. Two researchers who questioned hundreds of Swedish twins reported that such confidence, or lack of it, is partly genetic and partly drawn from experience.

They also found that the belief in blind luck — a conviction that coincidence plays a big role in life — is something learned in life and has nothing to do with heredity.

The research was conducted at the

Karolinska Institute — better known as the body that annually awards the Nobel prize for medicine — by Nancy Pedersen of the institute and Margaret Gatz, a professor of psychology at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Their results were recently published in the United States in the journal of gerontology.

"The belief in your ability to control your life direction, or the belief in your own competence, is 30 per cent some-

thing you are born with," said Gatz, interviewed during a consultation visit to Sweden.

People who are confident of their ability to control their lives have an "internal locus of control" and have a better chance of being well adjusted in their old age, said Pedersen.

An "external locus of control," believing that outside forces determine the course of life, has been linked to depression in later years, she said.

"This is one of the windows on the aging process," said Pedersen, who has published a series of studies on the genetics of personality traits based on interviews with twins. The study on life-control involved 554 pairs of twins.

"We are trying to understand what makes people different. What makes some people age gracefully and others have a more difficult time," she said. "Whether people feel independent is

an important standard for service institutions and how they treat the elderly," she said.

The study showed that while people have an inborn predilection toward independence and self-confidence, about 70 per cent of this personality trait is affected by a person's environment and lifetime experiences.

Pedersen's studies, with various collaborators, probe the aging process by comparing sets of twins.



Valley submerged

Flood waters cover a road in the Hunter Valley north of Sydney after cyclone Nancy lashed the east coast of Australia on Feb 4 causing

widespread damage and road closures. The cyclone has claimed three dead and two others were missing and feared dead. (Reuters wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

PORTLAND, Oregon: Many toddlers who are slow to speak fail to outgrow the problem by the time they reach age 3, suggesting treatment should be considered to expand their vocabulary, a scientist says.

"Traditional wisdom has counseled a wait-and-see attitude for 2-year-olds with delayed language development," said Rhea Paul, an associate professor of speech and hearing sciences at Portland State University.

But while some such toddlers improve spontaneously, many who show early signs of trouble experience "long-term difficulty in language and school achievement," she said.

Paul's study involved 42 toddlers with language considered normal, and 36 considered "language delayed," producing fewer than 10 intelligible words at 18 to 23 months, or fewer than 50 words or no two-word combinations by 24 to 34 months. Of the 2-year-olds who were "language delayed," 41 per cent couldn't express themselves as well as they should have by age 3, Paul found. And more than half of the 3-year-olds showed delays in their ability to understand. (AP)

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia: Infected, inflamed sinuses can masquerade as a dental problem by causing a toothache in the upper molars, says an association of ear, nose and throat doctors.

"Patients should be suspicious that they have sinusitis and not dental problems if their pain is combined with nasal discharge or stuffiness and if the tenderness is localized in the upper jaw area," said David W. Kennedy, of the American Academy of Otolaryngology — head and neck surgery.

Melba Dewilde, the group's spokeswoman, said the academy decided to publicize the problem after a staff member rushed to her dentist in acute pain, only to find the problem was with her sinuses, not her teeth.

The maxillary sinus cavity above the upper jaw has membranes that can be inflamed and swollen by infection, causing pain and

tenderness in the upper jaw and teeth. The condition, acute sinusitis, usually happens after a cold, flu or allergy attack causes swelling of membranes in the nose. The swelling blocks air openings from the sinuses to the nose, allowing mucus to build up in the sinuses and causing a feeling of pressure. (AP)

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts: Actor Kevin Costner and actress Glenn Close have been chosen as the man and woman of the year by the Hasty Pudding Theatricals of Harvard, which annually honors impressive entertainers.

Close will be given a parade through Harvard Square and will be presented with the traditional "pudding pot" at the Hasty Pudding Theatre on February 13. Costner will receive his award at the premiere performance of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals' 142nd annual musical production, "Swede Expectations," on February 20.

Hasty Pudding publicity manager Rebecca Markus said Costner, star of "Field of Dreams" and "The Untouchables," was chosen for the independence and boldness he has shown in his selection of roles. Close was chosen for her versatility in playing everything from a self-sacrificing heroine in "The Big Chill" to the calculating Marquise de Merteuil in "Dangerous Liaisons," Markus said.

Hasty Pudding Theatricals, the nation's oldest undergraduate organization, also has recognized Katherine Hepburn, Meryl Streep, Lucille Ball, Steven Spielberg, Sean Connery and Steve Martin. (AP)

JUNEAU, Alaska: Alaska should be put in its place — in the upper left-hand corner of the map of the United States, according to legislators.

Too often Alaska is shown in a small box off the coast of California, or just left off US maps altogether, said state representative Fran Ulmer.

Ulmer is the sponsor of a resolution that asks the nation's newspapers, magazines and book publishers to put the state in its rightful geographic position. The Alaska House of Representatives

'All the President's children' 'Life's not easy'

WASHINGTON, Feb 5, (AP) — Life has not been easy for the children of US presidents.

That's the conclusion of an unusual study commissioned by one of President George Bush's offspring shortly after his father won the 1985 election.

Douglas Wead, now a White House aide, reviewed the lives of presidential offspring from John Adams to Ronald Reagan and produced a 44-page treatise on "all the president's children." His conclusion: "History" should be a sobering warning.

The weekly magazine US News and World Report published excerpts of Wead's report in its Feb 12 edition as part of a story looking at how the five Bush children are faring under the spotlight.

Wead "found a consistent pattern of trouble for the sons and daughters of presidents," the magazine reported. "There were higher-than-average rates of divorce, alcoholism and accidental death; a wide variety of scandals over real or perceived conflicts of interest, and constant frustration over lack of independence."

Wead was asked to undertake the study by Bush's eldest son, George Walker Bush, 43, who last year became managing partner of the Texas Rangers Baseball team. He ruled out a run for Governor of Texas this year.

passed the resolution unanimously Monday and sent it to the Senate.

The resolution was expanded at the request of Congressman George Janko to ask publishers not to cut off the Aleutian Islands. (AP)

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Dr. Mayday McCarty of New York, an early pioneer in genetic research, has been named the 1990 winner of the \$100,000 Wolf Prize in medicine, to be presented at the Israeli Knesset, or parliament, in May.

McCarty, 78, who retired from the faculty of New York's Rockefeller University in 1981, was chosen for his work on DNA and genetics in the mid 1940s with Colin MacLeod and Oswald Avery at the Rockefeller Institute. He is the only survivor of the three scientists.

The award was established in 1975 by the late Rikardo Wolf to promote science and art for the benefit of mankind. Wolf was a German-born inventor and philanthropist who emigrated to Cuba, which named him ambassador to Israel. He died here in 1981. (AP)

NEW YORK: Actress Lynn Redgrave helped raise funds for a hurricane-damaged arts festival in historic Charleston, South Carolina.

Redgrave was host of a benefit performance Monday at Lincoln Centre, which raised about \$350,000 for the Spoleto Festival USA an annual 17-day celebration of the arts. Festival-related buildings and equipment in Charleston suffered an estimated \$4 million in damage when hurricane Hugo raged through the area in September.

Choreographer Jerome Robbins,

was on hand to introduce New York City ballet dancers who performed a number from his ballet, "The Goldberg Variations," two members of the Martha Graham Dance Company performed "Errand Into the Maze" and soprano Renee Fleming and young Ok Sahn performed selections from Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro."

This year's festival runs from May 25 through June 10. (AP)

WASHINGTON: Local jails in the United States held a record number of inmates by mid-1988, more than twice number held in those jails a decade earlier, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported Sunday.

The bureau, a component of the Justice Department's office of justice programmes, said in a new study that 9.7 million people were admitted to local jails between June 30, 1987, and June 30, 1988.

But 9.6 million people were released during the same time period, with some of those people being admitted and released several times during the year. The total inmate population on June 30, 1988, was 343,560 on June 30, 1987, about double the number on June 30, 1978, the bureau said.

Transplant survivor celebrates 'versary'

PITTSBURGH, Feb 5, (AP) — It's been 20 years since transplant surgeons gave a little boy's liver to Kim Hudson, unsure how long the 3-1/2 year-old girl would last beyond the operation, indeed whether she would last at all.

Kim Hudson is now Kim Rasmussen, wife of a US air force officer. Being the world's longest-surviving recipient of a liver transplant is a distinction she'd just as soon forget.

"I don't like to talk about it," she said. "I hate hospitals. I do not like doctors that well — I associate them with transplants. It's all scary. I shake when I go in to get my blood work. They thought I was going to pass out a couple months ago. I hate it, and it doesn't get any better."

Kim fears her luck will run out if she brags about her Jan 22, 1970, transplant and how well she has done. Thoughts of the transplant — and the ever-present risks — follow her everywhere.

"I think about my health all the time. I pray every day I stay healthy. I pray that it all keeps working."

Even Dr. Thomas E. Starzl, who performed the transplant at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Centre, can't explain Kim's uninterrupted good health for practically all the time since we did her.

"You could call it providential if you were inclined that way," said Starzl, who is now at the University of Pittsburgh.

Starzl performed the world's first liver transplant, in 1963, as well as the 31 other liver transplants in Denver that preceded Kim's. Only a handful of medical centres were transplanting livers at the time.

During that first decade, children had a 30 per cent to 35 per cent chance of living one year beyond surgery. For adults, it was 10 per cent.

"They were successful if they didn't die on the table," said Paul Taylor, a transplant co-ordinator who worked with Starzl at the University of Colorado.

The Hudsons learned of those early efforts from an article in a medical journal. Their daughter had been born with biliary atresia, a blockage of the bile ducts, and time quickly was running out. Family doctors advised against the risky experimental procedure. Relatives said they'd be killing the child.

Undaunted, the Hudsons persuaded their doctors to send Kim's medical records and blood samples to Denver. Ten months after her name was placed on the waiting list in 1969, a matching liver was found.

By the time Kim received the liver and gall bladder of a 7-year-old boy killed in a car accident on Jan 22, 1970, only four of the 32 previous recipients still were alive. By mid-1975, all four were dead.

Kim lived on, though, followed by more and more survivors. Twenty-eight of the 170 patients who underwent transplants by Starzl through February 1989 still are alive.

The real breakthrough came in 1980, when Starzl began testing the anti-rejection drug cyclosporine on liver transplant patients. One-year survival rates soared, eventually settling at today's 70 per cent to 80 per cent.

Cyclosporine, approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for general use in 1983, now is being surpassed by an even stronger drug. Known as FK-506, the Japanese drug is believed 50 to 100 times more powerful than cyclosporine. Starzl has conducted the US clinical trials since February 1989.

Doctors hesitate to change Kim's medication.

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Customers ridiculed Restaurant with the last laugh

ROME, Feb 5, (Reuters) — Walking into Rome's La Parolaccia restaurant is like taking a curtain call in a Broadway flop.

Howls of derision greet every customer who squeezes through the narrow front door. By the time you sit down, you've probably been insulted more in five minutes than in the rest of your entire life.

It's all in an evening's work at the Parolaccia, where the customers get a tougher grilling than the steaks.

The owners have been serving up a recipe of rawly jokes and a vicious line in personal abuse that has been packing diners into the rough and ready tavern for the past 37 years.

If you're lucky a waiter will take your coat before squashing you behind a narrow table already shared by five other people. When you look for it, it will have been flung over one of the dozens of wine bottles racking the wall.

Thick white plates crash down on the table with ear-splitting force announcing the arrival of the first course — you've already realised its best not to risk asking for the menu.

Above the din of guitars and accordions, the waiters make apparently friendly inquiries about where you come from, who your partner is, or why you're alone.

Honesty does not pay. "From Milan? Yes, you've got the face of an idiot," the waiter replies.

"Here's one from Germany," comes a shout from another table. "Thought so, she's got a backside as big as a Volkswagen," retorts his colleague to the raucous delight of the assembled company.

There's little to be done but cover red-faced in your seat and wait for attention to switch to the next hapless victim coming in through the door.

Often brusque and unwilling to put themselves out, Romans rank low in the qualities of courtesy and friendliness that are prevalent in the rest of Italy.

But at La Parolaccia — which means "swear word" — signor Nino Insofferente (literally "Mr insufferable") and his band of jesters have developed a no-holds-barred style of customer ridicule that makes the 100-seat tavern unique among Rome's more than 800 restaurants and pizzerias.

Male customers are commonly referred to as gays, while women are unfailingly described as whores.

Every four-letter word invented, every joke and a double entendre is used to flavour a ribald running commentary at the expense of the customers about cuckolded husbands, lusty wives and sexual prowess that is flavoured with a dash of Lavatorial humour in the worst possible taste.

"All sorts of people come here — young people, businessmen, foreigners. They love it," said Alberto Cianfanelli, one of the restaurant's three middle-aged owners.

"No one's ever taken offence. No one's ever walked out. If we see that a customer is really taking it badly, we lay off a bit and switch to somebody else," he said.

"I saw what the system did. I saw how it treated children. I saw how it treated adults. It doesn't work very well," Buckley said in a Jan 28 interview broadcast last night on the CBS news show "60 Minutes."

The trial, which included allegations of animal slaughter and satanic ritual, was the longest, costliest criminal proceeding in US history. Buckley spent five years in jail and his mother nearly two, before they were released on bail.

"It's a very s life side to be on, saying, 'gee, these poor children went through hell,'" he said. "And they did go through hell, but I'm not the cause of their hell, neither is my mother. Nothing that happened at the pre-school is the cause of their hell. The cause of their hell is the product of the adults who took on this case and made it what it is."

Buckley faces retrial next month on 13 molestation and conspiracy counts.

Justice miscarried

McMartin pre-school trial

LOS ANGELES, Feb 5, (AP) — Raymond Buckley, in his first extensive remarks since his acquittal on dozens of child molestation counts, called the McMartin pre-school trial a miscarriage of justice that destroyed his life and left children in torment.

"I saw what the system did. I saw how it treated children. I saw how it treated adults. It doesn't work very well," Buckley said in a Jan 28 interview broadcast last night on the CBS news show "60 Minutes."

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Reagan keeping in shape at 79

LOS ANGELES, Feb 5, (AP) — Former US President Ronald Reagan says he is keeping in shape by pumping iron daily and trimming trees with a chainsaw.

Reagan remains busy on the speaking circuit, delivering speeches on conservative issues. He has embraced an active retirement, saying he loves his return to California. The ex-president, 79, rose birthday tomorrow, discussed his personal life last week in an interview with the Associated Press. Reagan pointed to the Pacific Ocean and Channel Islands visible from his 34th-floor office in the Century City section.

"I've always said that a Californian who is forced to live away from California lives in a state of perpetual homesickness," he said, adding, "It isn't a place, it's a way of life."

Reagan said he was sceptical about whether the cold war has ended, and was hopeful American hostages in Lebanon would be freed. Age hasn't diminished Reagan's love of a self-deprecating joke. "I prefer to think of it as the 40th anniversary of my 39th birthday," Reagan quipped.

He attributed his health to daily weight lifting in his basement gym and trimming trees during monthly trips to his Santa Barbara County ranch.

He's been swinging axes, gripping chainsaws, and even pole saws, "on the majestic oaks surrounding his mountain retreat at 120 miles (200 kilometres) northwest of Los Angeles."

"Now you can sit there on the patio and look up there at a grove of trees while from the house and you're not only seeing those majestic trunks but you're seeing the dappled sunlight in there, and the sky through the trees," he said.

Since a brain surgery last year after he was thrown from a horse in Mexico, Reagan's hair has grown back — still black but with a more pronounced touch of grey. He's also riding again.

"Nothing is so good for the inside of a man as the outside of a horse," he said.

House-hunting
The former president said he and wife, Nancy, now own a \$2.5-million home in the Bel-Air community. It was originally purchased by friends for the couple's return to California.

Like some of his exploits that drew the wrath of Congress, the house-hunting expedition was a covert mission.

"If I went any place the press would have been in attendance and we didn't want that publicity at the time," he said.

He said Mrs Reagan persuaded him to sneak up to the house. "She said if I was willing to get down on the floor of the car and go there the press wouldn't be following me," he said.

Although his outlook about California is sunny, Reagan's view about prospects for the end to the cold war is somewhat darker. He lauded Time magazine's choice of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as "Man of the Decade," but said there is danger when foreign policy depends on the success of one man.

If Gorbachev prevails in his reforms, an era of better relations between East and West might be in sight, he said.

"I think we see something on the horizon, but we also have to remember this is the work of a man who can be dismissed by the Communist Party if they see it as a way clear to do it," Reagan said.

"We have to know that permanent changes have been made before we can say anything is in the clear and the cold war is over."

On the drug issue, Reagan said the war can be won this decade. "The way it must be done is we must generate the programmes in which the people, the customers turn away from the drug, not us turning the drugs away from customers," he said.

A major heartache during Reagan's administration was the capture of American sailors in Lebanon, he said. Held longest of the eight Americans is Terry A. Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, who was abducted March 16, 1985.

Reagan is optimistic the hostages would eventually be freed. "I have lived with that kind of hope," he said. "I think the obligation of the entire country is to come to the rescue of any American who is in any part of the world being denied the constitutional rights this country guarantees its people."

He declined to discuss aspects of the Iran-Contra scandal, citing pending litigation in the case involving secret arms sales to Iran and subsequent profits to Nicaraguan rebels.

Attorneys for his former national security adviser, John Poindexter, are seeking Reagan's personal diaries in the case, a move the former president has resisted.

Free Mandela soon or risk backlash: Tutu

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts, Feb 5, (Reuter) — South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu said yesterday the Pretoria government must release Nelson Mandela soon or risk a backlash in world opinion softened by promises of liberalised policies towards the black majority.

Tutu told a news conference after a meeting of Harvard University board of which he is a member that he wished the jailed black nationalist leader could be freed immediately but that a few weeks' delay would be acceptable.

"If he is not released within weeks of this particular announcement then the world knows how to react," Tutu said.

South African President F.W. de Klerk, in a sweeping speech on Friday, promised to free Mandela and

ordered the lifting of a 30-year ban on the African National Congress, the nation's main opposition group of which Mandela is a founder.

Tutu, saying "we all belong to one family," declared yesterday that South Africa's blacks have no intention of imposing majority rule on its white minority if apartheid is abolished.

"People often think we're looking for black majority rule. No, no, absolutely not. A South African is a South African," Tutu told the news conference at Harvard University.

"We all belong together in one family, God's family, the human family," the Anglican archbishop of Johannesburg said. "We will be a wonderful country."

Tutu cited neighbouring Namibia and Zimbabwe

as examples of countries that have succeeded in making the difficult transition from minority to majority rule.

"Just look at the remarkable things in Namibia, where people have been given a picture of Swapo (the revolutionary South West Africa People's Organisation) as a monster, and now they have a constitution," Tutu said.

"Just look at Zimbabwe, where Ian Smith (the former prime minister under white-ruled Rhodesia) can remain in parliament and then resign on his own," the archbishop said.

Upon arriving in Boston Saturday, Tutu urged the United States and other foreign nations to continue applying economic and diplomatic pressure on South Africa until negotiations are held to

abolish apartheid, the official system of racial separation.

"Until we get Nelson Mandela released, until we get negotiations going, we can't begin to start celebrating," Tutu said.

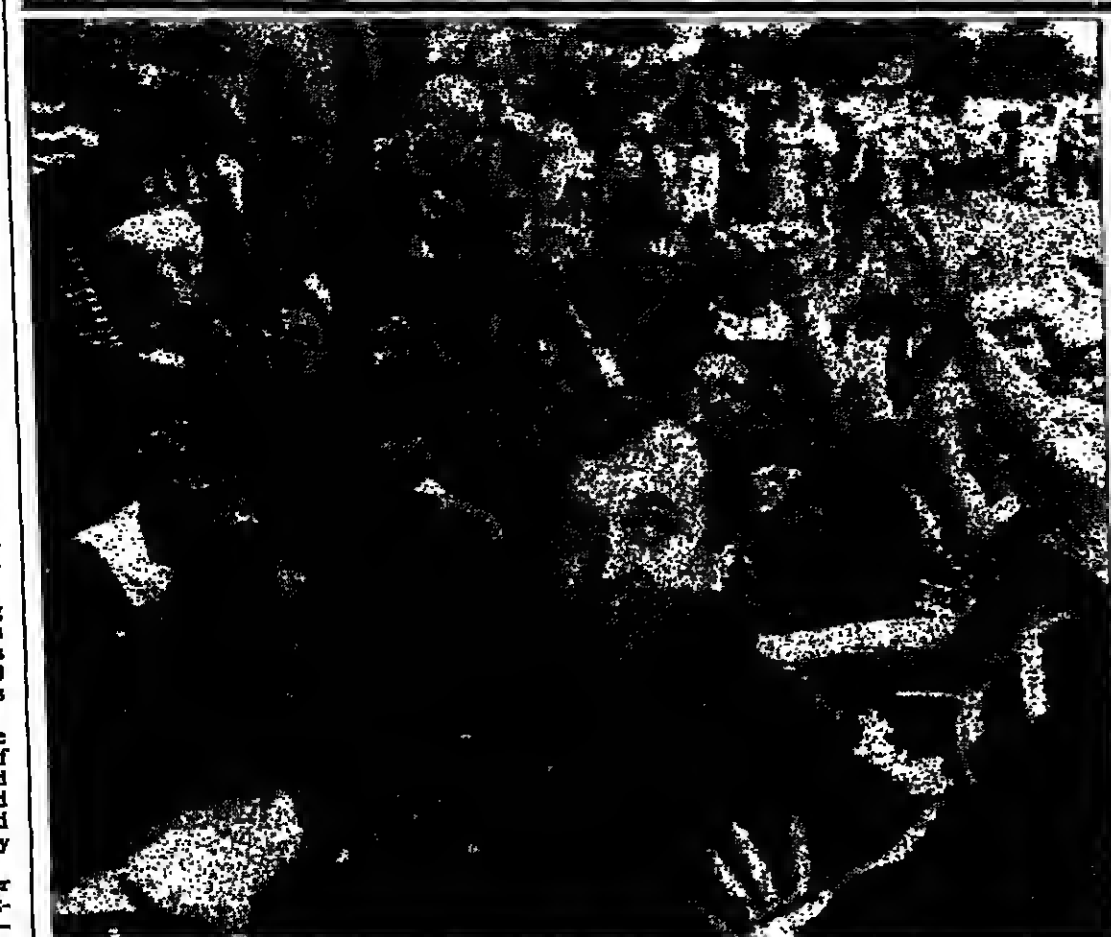
Tutu was elected to the Harvard board of overseers last year as part of a drive to pressure the university into ridding itself of all investments in companies doing business in or with South Africa.

The board took no vote on the issue at yesterday's meeting, but Tutu said he and other anti-apartheid members of the panel will continue to press for divestment.

"What we wanted them to say categorically is, 'we will not invest in South African companies. We want them out,'" the archbishop said.



Tutu speaks during a press conference near the Harvard University campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. (Reuter wirephoto)



Calderon waves to supporters.

Calderon for justice

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, Feb 5, (AP) — President-elect Rafael Angel Calderon says he plans to focus his energies on "improving social justice" in his country when he takes office on May 8.

Calderon succeeds President Oscar Arias, who could not seek re-election for another four-year term.

Calderon, 40, backs US aid to help El Salvador fight its leftist guerrilla insurgency and visited Panama to congratulate recently installed President Guillermo Endara shortly after the US invasion that toppled Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

But focusing on Costa Rica's domestic problems may affect the dynamics of the Central American peace process, which was driven by Arias' activist foreign policy.

"I will support the peace process, but I believe the main duty of a Costa Rican president is to deal with Costa Rica's problems," Calderon said at a news conference Friday.

Calderon's campaign culminated a long effort to restore the memory of his father, Rafael Angel Calderon Guardia, who also became president at age 40 and served from 1940 to 1944.

However, he was exiled after he tried to nullify the results of the 1948 vote.

Calderon, whose full name is

Young Costa Ricans mock vote

SAN JOSE, Feb 5, (Reuter) — The weight of Costa Rica's democratic traditions fell on some small shoulders yesterday when thousands of children turned out for mock presidential elections.

The mini-voters, about 38,000 Costa Ricans under 14, took their civic duty as seriously as the 1.4 million adults who voted Sunday for a successor to Nobel prize-winning President Oscar Arias.

Five-year-old Fidi Mira chose opposition candidate Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier for his "very honest eyes," but Alejandro Cespedes, 6, who voted at the next table, favoured Carlos Manuel Castillo of the ruling party.

Like their parents, the children followed strict rules aimed at keeping Costa Rica's elections free of fraud. But organisers did admit to some "flexibility" when the youthful voters' ink thumbprints smudge the ballots, which are photocopies of the real thing with each party's flag coloured in crayon.

Poll-watcher Roberto Ortiz, 8, handed out ballots and guarded the returns, but stressed he is barred from siding in the actual voting. "If we helped we would be interfering in the vote, and that would be suspicious," said Ortiz, who sported a Calderon shirt and cap.

memory of his father, Rafael Angel Calderon Guardia, who also became president at age 40 and served from 1940 to 1944.

However, he was exiled after he tried to nullify the results of the 1948 vote.

Calderon, whose full name is

Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, is familiarly known as "Junior."

During the campaign, he agreed that the economy had improved under two national liberation governments, but that was not the problem in his view.

dedicated to what Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel called "suffering that transcended suffering."

The disturbing, moving memorial, dominated by a 42-foot (13-metre)-tall bronze band with sculptured, suffering figures climbing it, is for a tragedy "beyond words and beyond imagination, but not beyond memory," said Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor, author and professor honoured with the Nobel Peace prize in 1986.

"Not to remember means to betray them all," he said. "...not to remember means to kill the victim a second time. Not to remember means to become an accomplice of the enemy." (AP)

Mayor, journalist killed: The mayor of a small town and the owner of a radio station were killed on Saturday, bringing to 16 the number of Colombians killed in two days of leftist and drug-related violence, authorities said on Sunday in Bogota.

Pedro Jesus Hernandez Carrillo, 36, mayor of Arboledas in north Santander state, about 200 miles (325 km) northeast of Bogota, was killed by a group of gunmen after opening a lunch room for schoolchildren, the governor of the state, Eduardo Assaf, said in a radio interview.

Cuba calls UN session: The Cuban Ambassador, current president of the UN Security Council, has called an informal session of the council for Monday to discuss the US attack on a Cuban-chartered cargo ship off the coast of Mexico.

The council will meet in consultations late on Monday to decide whether to hold a formal meeting on Cuba's complaint, UN sources said on Sunday.

Pretoria will keep schools segregated

Mandela rejects terms for release

CAPE TOWN, Feb 5, (Reuter) — The South African government plans big improvements in education for blacks, using defence funds saved by Namibian independence, but will not scrap segregated schooling, Education Minister Stoffel van der Merwe said today.

Van der Merwe, the white minister responsible for black education, told a news conference that cultural differences between blacks and whites made separate schools essential.

"Integration... would not be very acceptable at the moment in South Africa," he said.

"As soon as money becomes available, black education will receive one of the highest priorities possible," he said.

Van der Merwe insisted, however, that separate schools for blacks and whites, administered by separate government departments, would remain the norm.

"One would probably increase the potential for conflict in the white community if eventually white education is controlled by anybody else but white people themselves," he said.

He said it might be possible to review the segregation policy if black schooling could be raised to the standard of white education.

President Frederik de Klerk's failure to lift the 4-1/2-year-old state of emergency and other "obstacles" are preventing Nelson Mandela's release from prison, said the black nationalist leader's wife.

Winnie Mandela, after a five-hour visit with the African National Congress leader at the Victor Verster prison in Paarl, said yesterday, "The obstacles still exist and it is Mr De Klerk who must remove these obstacles."

She said her husband was drafting a statement in response to De Klerk's address to Parliament Friday but refused to say when or how it would be distributed.

Winnie Mandela said she had rejected the terms for freedom announced by De Klerk.

She said he would never accept his liberty after 27 years in jail without an end to emergency rule.

"That is out of the question," Mrs Mandela told reporters. "The (lifting of the) state of emergency is one of the conditions put by Mr Mandela for his release. As far as the family is concerned we are back to where we have to put pressure on for his release."

Winnie Mandela said she was "extremely disappointed" that she was unable to take Mandela out of prison, although she declined to specify whether her husband was refusing to leave until De Klerk announced further reforms.

De Klerk said yesterday his decision to relax curbs on opposition was risky, but necessary to avert revolution.

"We must accept the risk that goes with new initiatives," said De Klerk.

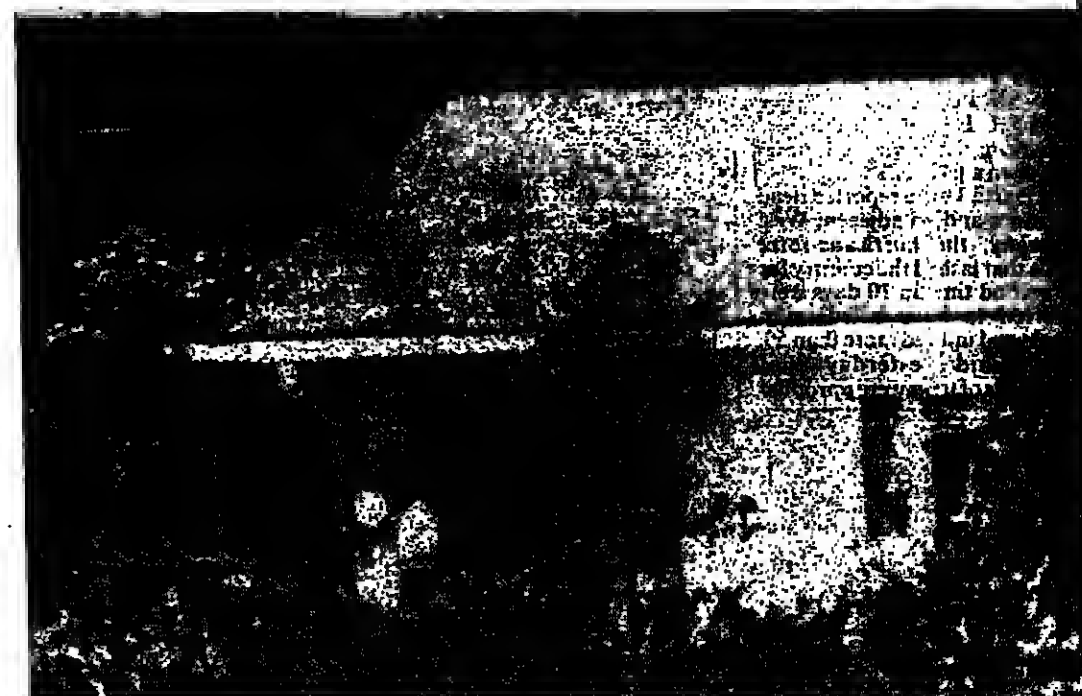
"The risk of staying in a dead-end street is far higher," De Klerk said in an Afrikaans-language television interview. "Everything we do, we do to avoid revolution."

African National Congress (ANC) leaders, saying their struggle is far from over, have urged friendly governments to keep up pressure on South Africa "until apartheid has been buried like Nazism."

Van der Merwe said Western economic sanctions against apartheid were the main reason for the government's failure to narrow the gap between white and black education.

Pretoria currently spends five times as much on the education of a white child as on each black child.

"Sanctions did not bring the South African economy to a standstill, but they had the restrictive effect that even though you want to reform and increase your spending on black education it is not possible to do so."



Nelson Mandela stands outside his prison cell in Paarl, South Africa. (Reuter wirephoto)



Jackson speaks during an anti-apartheid rally at Hackney, north London Feb 4. (Reuter wirephoto)

Apartheid must go: Jackson

'De Klerk cannot stop now'

LONDON, Feb 6, (AP) — US black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson yesterday, preaching at St James's church in Piccadilly, said that South Africa will not be accepted internationally until the white-led government of President F.W. de Klerk abolishes apartheid completely.

"De Klerk cannot stop now," he said. "De Klerk must continue beyond to bring about a democratic, open, non-racial society in South Africa."

De Klerk announced Friday that black leader Nelson Mandela will be freed from prison soon. He also legalised Mandela's African National Congress guerrilla movement and eased emergency regulations.

Jackson told the church congregation there was hope for the future in De Klerk's speech. But, he added, he remained cautious because "the structures of apartheid are still in place."

He also addressed a cheering rally of about 1,200 people, most of them black, in London's rundown Hackney district. The crowd packed a theatre, the empire, three hours before Jackson arrived.

"We don't go to South Africa as tourists or visitors but as brothers and sisters going home," Jackson told them.

"We have been separated for so long in the diaspora. Africans everywhere, in Britain, the Caribbean, the United States and Africa, are members of one family with an obligation to stand together to make the world better," he said.

Jackson, who arrived in Britain on Saturday, will stop in Zambia for talks with President Kenneth Kaunda before going to South Africa on Wednesday. Jackson, barred by visa denials in the past, is making his first visit to South Africa since 1979.

The South African trip was arranged by Walter Sisulu, an ANC leader freed last year after spending more than 27 years in jail, and the South African Council of Churches.

Diane Abbott, the first black woman elected to the British House of Commons, told the rally that it was pressure from South Africa's black majority that won Mandela's freedom. "No one has freed black South Africans — they freed themselves."

Ortega urges US to normalise ties

Nicaragua seeks talks with Washington to end state of hostility

MANAGUA, Feb 5, (UPI) — President Daniel Ortega invited the US government to start talks aimed at normalising strained bilateral relations between the two nations, the local media reported yesterday.

"I invite the government of the United States to initiate serious and profound dialogue to normalise relations between our two nations," Ortega said Saturday at a campaign rally in the city of Diriamba, 28 miles (45 km) south of the capital.

At the same time Ortega asked the US government "to put an end to its

policy of death against Nicaragua," the official daily BARRICADA reported.

The Bush administration should prove to the international community that "superpowers like the United States have learned to respect small nations like Nicaragua that have earned the right to be respected," Ortega was quoted as saying.

Ortega, apparently confident he will handily win re-election Feb 25, in recent days has been unusually conciliatory toward Washington in public statements.

He recently suggested that if

Washington could have peaceful relations with the Soviet Union it could have peaceful relations with Nicaragua, with which it shares more common interests by being in the same hemisphere.

Ortega's apparent olive branch comes as Nicaragua is increasingly isolated from its former eastern bloc allies and as the Soviet Union, despite assurances that it will continue to provide economic support, is increasingly preoccupied with problems closer to home.

In a year in which fighting in the

Contra war has waned, Ortega's government was able to slow inflation somewhat from the mind-boggling 33,000 per cent, as measured by its Gross Domestic Product, and more than 35 per cent of Nicaraguans are either unemployed or underemployed.

Nicaraguan officials insist that the country's economic problems are due primarily to a US economic blockade imposed in 1985 and the cost of the war against the US-funded Contras.

Contras do not register

YAMALEL, Honduras, Feb 5, (Reuter) — Most of the 12,000 Contra rebels have here ignored today's deadline to register for Nicaragua's February 25 elections, voting to register the ruling Sandinistas by fighting on.

"We will not return to vote because the vote won't be respected," said Julio Cesar Benavides, known by his nom de guerre of Jackson.

Sandinistas have accused the Contras of sending hundreds of robots into Nicaragua in recent weeks to disrupt the elections in which President Daniel Ortega faces Violeta Chamorro, candidate of a party opposition alliance.



Ortega bends back to throw a baseball. (Reuter wirephoto)



Chamorro flashes victory sign. (Reuter wire photo)

Sinn Fein rallying support Im given 10 years

Looking to pocketbook issues to oust Britons

DUBLIN, Feb 5, (AP): The Irish Republican Army's political wing is looking to pocketbook issues from unemployment to water bills to rally more support for its goal of a united Ireland.

The Sinn Fein party leadership's report to the annual convention, which ended yesterday, stressed that ending British rule in Northern Ireland took precedence over "gas and water politics."

"The priorities for Sinn Fein in the year ahead are to develop and strengthen our party organisation, to improve our publicity output and to overcome the effects of censorship," party president Gerry Adams told the convention on Saturday.

He added: "An essential part of this political offensive is active campaigning

on relevant issues which affect people in their daily lives and putting our republican analysis to their problems."

In other words, Sinn Fein will tell voters that the answer to poverty, unemployment and emigration is "Brits out."

Adams called for intensive efforts to make the same case in the Republic of Ireland.

"Gas and water politics" is nothing new for Sinn Fein, but it was highlighted instead of the criticism of the IRA heard at last year's conference.

Adams had complained that IRA killings of innocent civilians were hurting Sinn Fein, and called on the guerrillas to be "careful and careful again."

Just a week before the convention, a 16-year-old boy was killed by debris from an

IRA bomb in Londonderry.

Instead of eviscerating the guerrillas again, Adams boasted that "the IRA continues to demonstrate its ability to shatter the British propagandistic myth of the invincibility of the British army and its most elite regiments."

He called on the British government to open negotiations with Sinn Fein. British officials have said there will be no talks while fighting continues.

Sinn Fein's share of the vote in Northern Ireland dropped from 13.4 per cent in 1983 to 11.3 per cent in last year's local elections. It was beaten 2-1 among Catholics by the Social Democratic and Labour Party, which favours unity only by majority consent within Northern Ireland.

In Ireland, Sinn Fein's vote is nearly

invisible — 1.2 per cent in last summer's national elections.

Sinn Fein supporters are banned from appearing on radio and television both in Ireland and Northern Ireland, and the IRA is outlawed in both jurisdictions.

Appealing to Irish unity is not an automatic vote getter among Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland.

An opinion poll conducted last month for the Belfast Telegraph and the British Broadcasting Corp. found that 60 per cent of Catholics regard unity as "acceptable" — but 53 per cent also said the status quo was acceptable.

Sinn Fein is already strongest in the areas where economic problems are most acute, in the poor Catholic neighbourhoods of west Belfast and Londonderry.

Jailed for going to North

SEOUL, Feb 5, (AP): A woman college student nicknamed "the flower of unification" was found guilty today and sentenced to 10 years in prison for illegally visiting North Korea.

She is the first South Korean student to be sentenced for going to the North.

As the sentence was handed down, Im Su-Kyong and a Roman Catholic priest on trial with her both shouted: "Wake up judges who ignore unification."

Some 30 radical students and Catholic priests in the gallery at the Seoul district criminal court yelled "release them" and courtroom proceedings were temporarily halted until order was restored.

The Rev. Moon Gyu-Hyon, 41, who accompanied Ms. Im, 21, across the border Aug 15 was given eight years in prison. He said he went to the north to accompany her home because she is Roman Catholic and needed support.

On hearing the verdict, students at two Seoul universities held rallies demanding Ms Im's release.

Presiding Judge Hwang Sang-hyun found the pair guilty of making an illegal visit to the communist North, of contacting, communicating and rendering voluntary support to the enemy North and of benefiting the North militarily.

He said that when the two returned to the South, the followed instructions from North Korea to continue their anti-US, anti-government struggle.

"These days war is a total war which involves politics, econ-



Im Su-Kyong being sentenced to 10 years in jail Feb 5 (Reuters wirephoto)

omics, and other help. By providing the North with information regarding South Korean dissidents and opposition and other matters, they helped the north militarily," the judge said.

Ms Im and Moon said their trips to the North last summer were in support of unification of the peninsula, divided into the communist North and capitalist

South in 1945. Judge Hwang rejected the defendants' claim as being "out of context and unjustifiable."

The Seoul government forbids unauthorized trips to North Korea as a violation of national security laws and maintains dialogue on unification must be conducted through official channels.

Europe storm death toll 30

PARIS, Feb 5, (UPI): The death toll from one of the region's most deadly storms in two decades reached at least 30 yesterday and thousands of homes remained without power a day after winds up to 104 mph (167 kph) lashed parts of Europe, damaging architectural landmarks and ripping open a jetliner's wing.

At least 23 were reported dead in France and, in adjacent West Germany, the hurricane-force winds that lashed the country for the second time in 10 days were reported to have killed seven people and injured more than 50. Police said yesterday that thousands of trees were uprooted and hundreds of roofs were torn off buildings.

The storm abated before dawn yesterday but not before it caused several million dollars in damage in West Germany alone. In East Germany, the storm caused power failures and interruptions of rail service in several areas where trees fell on the lines.

In France, civil defence authorities said the death toll which rose when several injured people died of their wounds, made Saturday's storm one of the worst in the past 20 years.

Thirteen people died in Paris and the surrounding Ile de France region, which were hardest hit and recorded 104 mph winds.

Many victims were killed when crushed by their cars. Others were struck by flying signs, floors, and debris from broken walls and balconies, authorities said.

The electricity utility company, Electricite de France, or EDF, said at least 40,000 customers remained without power yesterday. At the height of the storm, Saturday, 2 million customers lost power, an EDF spokesman said.

One Italian was killed and three injured in a major avalanche that struck yesterday in a Swiss Alps area frequented by skiers, officials said.

Writers praise Rushdie

Defence fails to placate British Muslims

LONDON, Feb 5, (AP): Author Salman Rushdie's detailed defence of "The Satanic Verses" is winning plaudits from fellow writers but has failed to placate British Muslims who say the novel is blasphemous.

Several writers said Rushdie's 7,000-word essay was a brilliant defence of free speech. But Muslims said it would not break the deadlock over the novel, and one reiterated that the death sentence passed on Rushdie by the late Ayatollah Khomeini remained in force.

Rushdie's essay, published in the Independent On Sunday, was his first detailed comment on the furor aroused by "The Satanic Verses"

since Khomeini's edict forced him into hiding a year ago.

Rushdie, 42, wrote of the pain of being cut off from society; the irony of being condemned by Muslims for a novel that sought to highlight their plight as immigrants in the West; and the anger he feels that the Labour Party, which he has always supported, failed to back him.

The Bombay-born Briton said his novel sought to create a literary language for "formerly colonised, still-disadvantaged peoples," those like himself who straddle different cultures — "a love-song to our mongrel selves."

"To be rejected and reviled by, so to speak, one's own characters is a shocking and painful experience for any writer," he wrote.

"I recognise that many Muslims have felt shocked and pained too. Perhaps a way forward might be found through the mutual recognition of that mutual pain. Let us attempt to believe in each other's good faith."

Shabbir Akhtar, a British Muslim, welcomed Rushdie's decision to publish the essay, calling it "thoughtful and unexpected." But he said the novel remained a "calculated attempt to vilify and slander the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH)."

Writing today in the Independent, sister of the paper that published Rushdie's essay, Akhtar urged Rushdie to "engage in a dialogue" with those he has offended. He said Islam was a "merciful religion, and the magnanimity which has been denied to both parties may yet seek an occasion."

But he regretted Rushdie's insistence that a paperback edition be published, saying it would "fuel extremism in the Muslim camp. There may even be acts of political terrorism. It will be seen as a further provocation."

Rushdie's publisher, Viking Penguin, says "no firm date" has been set for issuing a paperback.

Liaquat Hussain, general secretary of the Council of Mosques in Bradford, urged Rushdie to "be brave enough to face the world for his principles."

Another British Muslim leader, Sayed Abdul Quddus, said: "The death sentence still stands on Salman Rushdie. It has been passed by Islamic law."

Novelist Penelope Lively, one of several writers who praised Rushdie's essay, called it "dignified and moving. I think, sadly, it points up the basic confrontation: here is a novelist trying to explain his purpose to fundamentalists who cannot, or will not, understand that fiction is or does."

Writer Michael Ignatieff said the essay would be regarded as "one of the great classical defences of the novelist's art in this century."

In his essay, Rushdie says the sequences most objected to by his Muslim critics are actually attempts to express the pain of people when their faith is stretched to breaking point — "to portray a soul in crisis, to show how the loss of God can destroy a man's life."

To Muslims who accuse him of turning against the faith into which he has been born, he replied: "To put it as simply as possible: I am not a Muslim. It feels bizarre, and wholly inappropriate, to be described as some sort of heretic after having lived my life as a secular, pluralist, eclectic man."



Polishing up

Restoration team volunteer Michael Exley adds a fine polish to one of the engines of a TSR-2 jet bomber that went on show at the Imperial War

Museum's Duxford airfield Feb 4. The 1,500 mph jet bomber first flew in September 1964 before costs forced the British government to cancel the project.

Entry delayed

EEC wants Turkish ties

BRUSSELS, Feb 5, (Reuters): European Economic Community governments agreed today to delay any negotiations with Turkey on its EEC membership request but all bar Greece said they wanted closer relations.

Community foreign ministers resolved to ask the EEC's executive commission to make concrete proposals soon for closer political and economic links between Turkey and the 12-nation bloc, an EEC spokesman said.

But Greece recalled its opposi-

tion to better relations until Turkish troops are withdrawn from the divided island of Cyprus and Athens could continue to block further EEC financial help for Turkey until its concerns are met.

It is already holding up some \$600 million of EEC funds earmarked for Turkey under an existing association agreement.

A Greek spokesman said several delegations had stressed the importance of full respect for human rights in Turkey.

Radicals stole weapons

ATHENS, Feb 5, (AP): An exclusive urban terrorist organisation claimed responsibility for stealing two bazookas from the war museum and said they did not require modification to be used, an Athens daily reported today.

Newspaper Epikrotita published photographs of the stolen weapons together with ammunition and handgrenades. It said the left-wing guerrilla group Nov 7 in a statement and photographs left for them in a trash can claimed credit for stealing the bazookas and ammunition.

The World War II vintage bazookas were stolen by armed gunmen Saturday morning from an exhibition stand as museum guards were held at bay.

The paper said that Nov 17 in its statement also claimed credit for stealing the bazookas shells and handgrenades from a military depot in central Greece last Christmas.

The Defence Ministry said that the bazookas could be used with slight modifications to fit the shells displayed in the photographs.

However, the Nov 17 statement denied the bazookas needed to be modified and said they "worked fine and could be used for the launching of 2.36 and 3.5 inch shells which we stole from the military camp on Dec 25."

Vying for Asian leadership

China, India, Japan contenders

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 5, (AP): Goh Chok Tong, expected to become Singapore's prime minister this year, says China, India and Japan will contest for leadership in Asia if superpower rapprochement leads to a diminished US presence in the region.

"If this happens, who will be the regional leader then? I think it cannot be Singapore. It cannot be Malaysia either. It will be left to China, India and Japan to contest for the leadership of this region, assuming that the United States pulls out," he added in the Jan 19 interview.

Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's prime minister for three decades, has said he will retire this year and Goh, now the deputy prime minister, will replace him.

"There is this general shaking up in the world," Goh said. "There is this development in Europe,

China. "We don't think the earthquake has subsided yet. How these pieces are to be put in place, we don't know yet."

"We see a diminution of conflicts between superpowers. That does not mean that there will be no conflicts in the world. In fact, we fear that with rapprochement of the superpowers, localised conflicts may arise," Goh said.

Goh said: "The only way for smaller countries in the region, such as Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore, to continue to prosper in such an environment, I think, is for us to have a more united Asean, better bilateral relations between Malaysia and Singapore and better multilateral understanding among countries in the region — Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Burma and so on," Goh said.

Burma rebels vow to fight on

MAE SOT, Thailand, Feb 5, (Reuters): Ethnic Karen guerrillas vowed to carry on their war against the Burmese government despite heavy casualties and the raising of their strongholds on the Thai border.

The Karen National Union (KNU), which has been fighting for autonomy from Rangoon, said the government had destroyed 10 of their 11 major camps straddling the winding river border, a liaison officer said.

He said about 20,000 Karen refugees fled to Thailand during the latest government offensive which began two months ago.

The officer, who asked not to be named, said the KNU would change tactics to guerrilla warfare conducted out of small, mobile units.

"Our 40-year-old policy to fight for autonomy from Rangoon remains the same but our strategy will change from defensive to guerrilla warfare," he said.

Karen guerrillas have operated from bases mainly located on spits of land in the winding Moei River border, overlooking lucrative timber and gem trade routes between the two countries.

Fighting in the last two years has increased as Burma's military government, cut off from foreign aid after crushing a national revolt in 1988, has vowed to crush the guerrillas and wrest control of their cross-border trade.

Thailand, long a covert backer of the Karens by allowing use of its territory for shipping arms and personnel, and sheltering Karen civilians, has since the change of government in Rangoon, distanced itself from the guerrillas.

Burma has launched annual offensives but with heavy rains and poor communications has rarely held on to captured territory.

The KNU officer said his soldiers this year had suffered severe military setbacks and heavy casualties but refused to give further details.

Seoul to better socialist ties

SEOUL, Feb 5, (AP): South Korea plans to use this year's Asian Games in Beijing as a vehicle to improve relations with China, while seeking broader ties with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, the Foreign Ministry said today.

In a policy report to President Roh Tae-woo, Foreign Minister Choi Ho-joong also said South Korea would seek stronger security ties with the United States, which is moving to reduce the number of American troops stationed in this country.

"Major efforts will be made to improve relations with the Soviet Union and China," Choi said in the report outlining Seoul's diplomatic goals for this year.

The goals are not new, but the report reaffirmed the Seoul government's position on various foreign policy, inter-Korean and economic issues.

Choi said South Korea would continue to build ties with the Soviet Union while using the September Asian games in Beijing as an opportunity to improve relations with China.

Despite a lack of diplomatic relations, capitalist South Korea has greatly improved relations with the Soviet Union in recent years, especially after the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

During the Olympics, South Korea allowed Soviet diplomats to stay temporarily in its capital, Seoul, to handle limited consular affairs for Soviet tourists and games participants. The two

nations began limited consular exchanges last November.

South Korea now hopes to apply a similar strategy in its effort to improve ties with China, which also has no diplomatic links with Seoul.

In its first consultations with China since the Chinese army's crackdown on pro-democracy protesters last June, South Korea will discuss sending officials to Beijing in September to handle consular affairs during the Asian Games, the ministry report said.

South Korea, aided by its economic strength, established diplomatic relations with Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia last year.

The ministry said it will continue to expand diplomatic relations with these East European countries, while moving to establish such relations with Czechoslovakia. "and will continue these efforts with other countries as the circumstances permit."

The Soviet Union and China both are allied with South Korea's archrival, communist North Korea.

South and North Korea, divided since 1945, have been holding talks to try to form a joint team for the Asian Games, but there has been only limited progress. Another meeting is scheduled Wednesday.

Choi said South Korea would co-operate closely with the United States to develop future security relations.

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Philippines Army raises bounty for Gringo's head

MANILA, Feb 5, (UPI): The Philippine military raised the reward for the capture of coup leader Gregorio Honasan to five million pesos (\$227,000) amid threats that a new rebellion may be brewing, and offered bounties today on 20 additional suspects in the failed December uprising.

Honasan and some 1,000 mutineers still at large are believed responsible for the coup attempt that almost toppled the four-year government of Corazon Aquino in December.

Police said a 300-man elite police force was being trained in case the threats proved true. The five million pesos (\$227,000) bounty for Honasan, the highest ever offered in the Philippines for the capture of a single fugitive, was a sharp increase over the one million pesos (\$47,600) reward offered last month for the arrest of Honasan and five other top mutineers.

One of the five, police Brig. Gen. Edgardo

Abenina, was captured Thursday.

National Police Chief Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano said the additional bounty money was raised by businessmen who feared a new coup attempt would ruin the economy still reeling from the impact of the Dec 1-9 rebellion.

At least 119 people were killed and more than 500 wounded in the December coup bid, the sixth and most serious challenge to Aquino, who was swept to power in a civilian-

backed military revolt that ousted late ruler Ferdinand Marcos.

Today, the government announced it was offering bounties on 20 additional suspects allegedly involved in the December coup attempt. Topping the list is Army Col Marcelino Malajacan, a reward of 1 million pesos (\$47,600) was being offered for information leading to his capture.

In her regular radio call-in show yesterday, Aquino urged the mutineers still at large to

surrender, saying the constitution guaranteed them protection and due process.

"Step forward and face the consequences of your actions," Aquino said. "You are guaranteed protection and due process by the very constitution."

Honasan, who allegedly masterminded the December uprising, is one of 15 coup leaders who had a bounty put on their heads by the Philippine military last month.

Five on the list have been captured with the help of civilian informers who later were given their rewards.

The 41-year-old Honasan also led the bloody Aug 28, 1987, coup against Aquino, but he escaped from a prison ship in April 1988 with 14 of his security guards.

Officials said the elite police force of 300 men will join a 2,000-member military task force called "operation plan checkmate" to be activated in the event of a coup attempt.

LDP gaining ground ahead of crucial vote

Analysts predict stalemate in Diet

TOKYO, Feb 5, (Agencies): With the crucial Lower House of Parliament election two weeks away, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's ruling conservative party is gaining momentum towards retaining its 35-year uninterrupted rule of the chamber, newspaper survey showed today.

At stake in the Feb 18, election are 512 seats in the law-making House of Representatives which has been controlled by the pro-American Liberal Democratic Party since 1955.

The national daily Yomiuri Shimbun said its survey showed that about 220 LDP candidates were leading in their constituencies while

about 80 others were on the win-lose border line.

The paper said the Japan Socialist Party, Kaifu's main political opposition, is likely to win about 120 seats, compared with 83 seats it held when the lower house was dissolved Jan 24.

A field of 953 candidates, including a record 66 women, kicked off campaigns in the nation's 130 constituencies Saturday.

The election will be the first major political test for Kaifu, who took office Aug 9 after his two predecessors stepped down over bribery and sex scandals in less than three months.

"The LDP now faces the worst crisis since its founding (in 1955)," Kaifu, 59, said as he launched the campaign for the ruling party, which fielded 325 candidates.

Despite a hard race predicted for the LDP, political analysts said the ruling party will be able to cling to power, but may need the help of conservative independents.

The LDP, which won a landslide in the previous elections held simultaneously for both the lower and upper houses in 1986, maintained an overwhelming majority of 295 seats in the lower chamber.

The party lost a majority in the Upper House for the first time since its founding in an election held last July after it was rocked by a series of shares-for-favours and sex scandals.

Japan's first sales tax introduced in April last year also was attributable to the LDP's election setback, political analysts said.

Opposition parties have vowed to make the sales tax a major issue in the Lower House election again.

In launching a stumping tour Sunday, JSP chairwoman Takako Doi declared the party will again introduce a bill to scrap the sales tax in the Diet or Parliament, after the election.

Four non-communist opposition parties forced a bill to abolish the levy in the Upper House last month. It was overruled by the LDP in the Lower House.

Political analysts predicted Kaifu will face pressure from within the party to step down if the LDP fails to win a simple majority of 257 seats in the election.

Kaifu's two-year term as LDP president runs through October next year.

His predecessor, Sosuke Uno, stepped down to take the blame for the LDP's defeat in the Upper election.

Kaifu's power base within the LDP is weak as he belongs to a small intra-party faction and his fragile leadership rests on the support from other major factions.

The Home Affairs Ministry said there are 90.57 million eligible voters.

Many analysts expect the LDP to lose seats but hold a narrow majority after the election for the Lower House, leading to a stalemate that will bog down foreign and domestic policymaking.

The parties currently in the opposition run the gamut from the communists to parties almost as conservative as the Liberal Democrats, and they have ideological differences that make it difficult to band together in a coalition.

"The Liberal Democrats are probably going to muddle through," says political science Professor Robert M. Orr of Temple University Japan. But he predicts a reduced majority as younger incumbents "take it on the chin" and lose their seats.

Orr says the key question is whether the uncommitted, especially young adults and women will turn out to vote against the Liberal Democrats.

Money talks in Japan politics

TOKYO, Feb 5, (Reuters): When it comes to politics in Japan, money talks.

Political analysts predict that more than \$2 million will be spent on each of the 512 candidates in the campaign for lower-house elections on February 18.

And that's just for starters. Many candidates are expected to spend much more and one hopeful fighting for a seat in southern Japan is laying out three billion yen (\$21 million), according to an unconfirmed media report.

"Within the LDP it's said that five makes a winner and three makes a loser," said Japan Socialist Party chairwoman Takako Doi.

She meant that a candidate spending 500 million yen (\$5.4 million) would get elected while one who spent only 300 million yen (\$2 billion) would not.

The LDP faces its toughest test in more than 34 years in power. Many analysts expect it will retain control of the 512-seat lower house but say it may need the help of conservative independents to do so.

Doi, the first woman to head a major Japanese political party, has repeatedly attacked the LDP for what she derisively calls "money politics" and accuses it of selling out to corporate interests in its bid to hold on to power.

Media reports said the LDP had asked business for 30 billion yen (\$207 million) for the current campaign.

Most of the party's senior leaders were implicated last year in a scandal in which the Recruit Publishing and Telecommunications company allegedly handed out cut-price shares to politicians in return for favours.

That scandal and a sex scandal along with a deeply unpopular sales tax and relaxation of agricultural imports, cost the LDP control of parliament's less powerful upper house last July for the first time.

By law, candidates are not supposed to spend more than 20 million yen (\$235,000) on each campaign. The law also stipulates how the money should be spent, prohibiting, for example, providing food and drinks to voters.

But analysts said few, if any politicians obeyed the law.

Political consultant Tetsuo Tanihara said he drew up a model 320 million yen (\$2.2 million) budget for a candidate running in a central Tokyo district.

It includes 84 billion yen (\$580,000) to rent three offices and a temporary campaign headquarters, 50 million yen (\$345,000) to pay staff and 45 million yen (\$310,000) for posters and leaflets.

The headquarters should be staffed by 50 campaign officials, five receptionists, 10 cooks, eight drivers. It should be equipped with 200 telephones and 11 vehicles, including a van carrying a loudspeaker.

Asked if the budget guaranteed a candidate's success, Tanihara said: "That is not enough. Triumph will depend also upon campaign strategy and tactics, political organisation and effective use of the money."

Tanihara is advising 23 candidates, most from the LDP.



Kaifu is welcomed by a stationmaster upon arrival in Yokohama. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chinese turn to Mao again

Leaders must be Marxist

BEIJING, Feb 5, (Reuters): Chinese peasants rushing to buy portraits of communist leaders have chosen the late chairman Mao as their favourite pin-up, turning a relatively cold shoulder to Beijing's current line up.

The People's Daily said today the renewed adulation of Mao Tse-tung showed the unassailable supremacy of communism but did not explain why the peasants had plumped for Mao rather than current leaders.

China's official press has so far not reported on talks among Soviet leaders about signing away the Communist Party's constitutional monopoly on power.

"In China, there is no other political force that can supplant the leadership of the Socialist Party and there is no force that can split the masses from the party," said the newspaper in a front-page commentary.

It lauded the revolutionary fervour of the peasants around Huaihua in the southeastern province of Hunan who it said had been snapping up books by revolutionary luminaries and teaching Marxism and Maoism thought to 110 groups of primary-school pupils.

China has stepped up a propaganda campaign against Western ideas of democracy and capitalism since hardline leaders

ordered troops to crush mass protests for democracy in Beijing last June.

Leaders have warned that anyone disloyal to Marxism should be prevented from holding positions of authority and hinted at purges against those suspected of shaky communist convictions.

But the Hunan peasant farmers have been exemplary. Some had journeyed 100 km (60 miles) "over mountains and ridges" to snap up an image of the late "Great Helmsman".

A total of 60,000 portraits of revolutionary leaders have been sold in the area of Huaihua since August last year, 60,000 of which depicted Mao Tse-tung.

Current leaders Deng Xiaoping and Chen Yun accounted for part of the remaining 20,000 sold, shared between some of Mao's former comrades in arms, Chou Enlai, Zhu De and Liu Shaogui.

China's population rose by nearly 16 million last year to 1.1 billion, the China Daily reported today.

Chinese authorities have closed a state publishing company for printing what they called "obscene" books, as part of a campaign to root out pornography, Chinese newspapers said.



Children wave Japanese flags as they join their parents in welcoming Kaifu during his campaign visit to Yokohama. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hong Kong denies: Hong Kong on Monday denied claims by a group of Vietnamese boat people that they were being held illegally and prevented from sailing on to Japan.

Government refugee co-ordinator Mike Hanson said a group of 107 who sailed into Hong Kong waters in May last year could not have continued their voyage as they had wanted because their boat was in no condition to go on.

"They are not being held illegally, there is no doubt about that," Hanson said.

Earlier, Anne Dawson-Shepherd, deputy head of mission for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said the group was taking legal advice on its claim. (Reuters)

Hun Sen threatens to quit: Cambodian Premier Hun Sen has threatened to quit unless some of his relatives stop abusing his name for personal gain, a Thai newspaper reported Monday.

In a report from the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh, Bangkok's English-language daily, "the National" quoted unnamed sources as saying the threat was contained in a three-page letter from Hun Sen to members of his family.

In recent months, stories about corruption among some members of the premier's family have circulated in Phnom Penh. (AP)

Counter-attack on guerrillas: A senior Cambodian government official said on Monday the army planned a counter-attack soon in territory near the northwestern border with Thailand seized by guerrillas in the past four months.

"I can tell you that we will not allow them to stay much longer," said Math Ly, a member of the Communist Party politburo and vice-president of the national assembly.

Math Ly also said in an interview with Reuters that the Phnom Penh administration wanted peace talks due in Jakarta later this month to succeed and called on countries backing the guerrillas to stop supplying them with arms. (Reuters)



Cancelled

Czechoslovakia cancelled a public wreath-laying ceremony by the Dalai Lama in Prague's Wenceslas Square on Sunday, fearing inadequate security.

The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader (above), on a four-day visit to Czech President Vaclav Havel's personal invitation, was to lay a wreath in tribute to students injured in the first of a wave of protests last November which toppled the communist government.

But Havel's secretary Alexander Neumann told several thousand Czechoslovakians who had waited in the square for two hours on Sunday evening that the Dalai Lama would not be appearing. He gave them no reason.

"It was my personal decision," Neumann told Reuters. "I just didn't think it was safe enough on the square."

China has condemned the Dalai Lama's visit to Czechoslovakia despite Havel's insistence it was a private affair.

Beijing called the visit a "gross interference" in its internal affairs and on Saturday postponed a visit by a Czechoslovak minister scheduled for later this month.

Without water: At least two-thirds of American Samoa's 38,000 residents were without water because a power outage caused by Hurricane Ofa, authorities said in Pago Pago, American Samoa.

The remaining third got their water from village catchment systems, but some of them may have been muddied by the rains that accompanied the weekend storm.

Disrupted communications prevented reports from western Samoa, a country with 160,000 people between the US territory and the storm track. (AP)

Jail for uprooting 16,600 trees: Ten middle-aged women who uprooted 16,600 small trees were sent to jail for obstructing Indonesia's national development, the Jakarta Post said on Monday.

The women claimed the company Pt Inti Indorayon Utama was using traditional tribal land for its controversial eucalyptus pulp and rayon project.

They began the trial singing hymns and ended it declaring: "We will appeal. We are prepared to be cut into pieces."

The protesters were sentenced to six months in jail, fined 1,000 rupiah (55 cents) each and had their boats confiscated, the English-language daily said. (Reuters)

Asia

Crackdown in Nepal: The Nepalese government, apparently cracking down on dissent prompted by opposition calls for pro-democracy demonstrations and strikes, has arrested 117 people during the past two days, opposition leaders said on Monday.

Among those arrested were sympathisers of the banned Nepal Congress Party, which has called for the pro-democracy protests to begin Feb 18, and several members of the seven-party Left Front that is supporting the Congress Party, a party spokesman said.

In addition, the arrests taking place in about 15 of the nation's 75 administrative districts have included some members of the ruling Panchayats, or village councils, who have expressed support for the opposition, the spokesman said. (UPI)

Rights monitors meet: Human rights monitors are turning to training eastern Europeans in "the ABC" of democracy, a Helsinki committee federation official said on Monday.

Representatives from 19 countries gathered in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, for a weekend meeting to discuss a new agenda for the Helsinki Federation for human rights now that the situation in the East bloc is no longer "black and white," said executive director Václav Zeman.

"With the changes that are taking place, we need to re-evaluate our work and the directions of our policies," he said.

The Vienna-based Helsinki Federation is increasing efforts to provide materials and advice for the new democracies of the East bloc, he said.

"What we are trying to do now, which is essential, is to help the eastern European human rights groups in training them in the processes of democracy," Ms. Zeman said. "This is what they want ... to teach them the role of law, the basic ABCs." (AP)

Talks on chemical weapons ban

resume: International efforts to scrap chemical weapons resume in Geneva on Tuesday with most of the groundwork completed and agreement likely to be reached before the end of next year.

"All delegations agree that a treaty can be signed within the next two years," French Ambassador Pierre Morle, outgoing chairman of the United Nations disarmament conference, told Reuters ahead of a new, three-month session.

Negotiators from 40 nations have been holding two sessions a year for the past decade to achieve a comprehensive, global ban on chemical weapons.

Diplomats say the problems they face are greater than in other arms control areas because many countries have access to the technology for producing such weapons. (Reuters)

Romania to allow political parties

BUCHAREST, Feb 5, (Reuters): Romania's new rulers, accused of bullying political opponents since the overthrow of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, plan to establish a multi-party democracy with a strong opposition. Deputy Prime Minister Mihai Draganesco said today.

Draganesco, 60, told Reuters the National Salvation Front (NSF), which took power after Ceausescu was toppled and executed, would not impose authoritarian rule even if, as widely expected, it wins national elections scheduled for May 20.

"If the Front wins the election, I don't think it will be a domination in the old style of the old Communist Party," said Draganesco, one of Romania's leading electronics experts.

Many of the 30 or so opposition parties have complained that the Front has an unfair election advantage in terms of money, buildings and organisation.

The NSF bowed to pressure from the parties last week when it agreed to set up a council of national unity within which opposition groups would be represented.

Draganesco described the council, to be formally instituted on Friday, as Romania's new Parliament.

"All voices will be heard and will influence the decisions of this body," he said.

Draganesco dismissed complaints from the United States that opposition parties had been intimidated by NSF supporters, and said Romania wanted Washington to restore "most-favoured nation" (MFN) status, which would allow Romanian goods to be imported at preferential rates of duty.

The United States was about to end Romania's MFN status in 1988, because of Ceausescu's abysmal human rights record, when the former leader pre-empted the move by informing Washington himself that Romania did not want MFN anymore.

Asked about the restoration of MFN, Draganesco said he hoped the United States "will see that Romania is a reliable country from all points of view."

Draganesco admitted there was "dissatisfaction concerning the non-participation of other parties" (in the government). But he said this had been solved by creating the new council.

Pledge

Bulgaria's new communist prime minister said yesterday he planned to form a broadly-based government including non-communists and pledged to move his country to a free-market economy.

Andrei Lukinov, 51, (above) elected on Saturday after the resignation of Georgi Atanasov two days earlier, said his administration would include members of the Communist Party, the Agrarian Party and other groupings.

"My preference is that this should be a government of the broadest community possible, a government of national accord," he said in English at an annual gathering of political and business leaders in the Swiss ski resort, Davos.

(Reuters wirephoto)

Cancelled

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Japan has more jobs than it knows what to do with but foreigners unwanted

TOKYO, Feb 5, (Reuters): Welcome to Ikebukuro, a seedy district in northern Tokyo. You want a job? No problem — we need cooks, waitresses and "healthy men" to work in gaming parlours.

Wages? For a waitress more than 700 yen (\$5 an hour) and for a cook a holiday trip to Hong Kong thrown in as an extra.

The walls of Ikebukuro's bars, restaurants, pornography parlours, billiard rooms and gaming arcades are plastered with advertisements offering what is a fortune to most other Asians.

It is a vivid illustration of a Japanese problem most countries would love to have — it has more jobs than it

knows what to do with.

As the country's economic upswing enters its 39th straight month, labour shortages are worsening. Construction and manufacturing companies are desperate for workers.

The government's management and co-ordination agency on Friday said unemployment in Japan dropped to 2.3 per cent in 1989, its lowest level since 1981.

In 1988, unemployment averaged 2.5 per cent.

Japan's unemployment rate is one of the lowest in the world and there are more than 130 jobs for each 100 job applicants.

There is one easy solution to the labour shortage.

Thousands of workers throughout Asia, skilled and unskilled, would leap at the chance to work in the continent's most advanced economy for its highest wages.

Some businessmen have joined foreign countries in proposing that Japan exploit this pool through quotas agreed with other governments, admitting a fixed number of visas for a set period, like Gulf countries during the oil boom.

The government is adamantly opposed. It argues that the country's homogeneity must be protected and is apprehensive that racial tension could result from immigration as it has in Europe.

"As the world's second richest country, we have an

obligation to other nations, especially our neighbours in Asia," said one government official.

"Can we discharge that obligation by giving aid or do we reverse 2,000 years of history and start to become multi-racial? It is a momentous decision," he said.

Under current laws, the only foreigners allowed to work in Japan are skilled, such as bankers, businessmen or cooks who have to be sponsored by firms here.

Unskilled workers are not allowed to enter the country legally. But economics make a nonsense of the law, with the number of illegal foreign workers estimated at more than 150,000 employed on building sites and in factories, workshops, restaurants and farms.

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- * Career oriented.
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- * A driving licence is a plus.
- * Transferable residency.

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Surrender monopoly Soviet partymen told

Gorbachev's days are numbered — Yeltsin

MOSCOW, Feb 5, (Agencies): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told Communist Party leaders meeting today that they must give up the party's guaranteed monopoly on political power, sources said.

Gorbachev, opening a crucial two-day meeting of the Communist Party's Central Committee, told the policy-making body that a multiparty political system in fact already exists in the country, said a source familiar with Gorbachev's speech, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

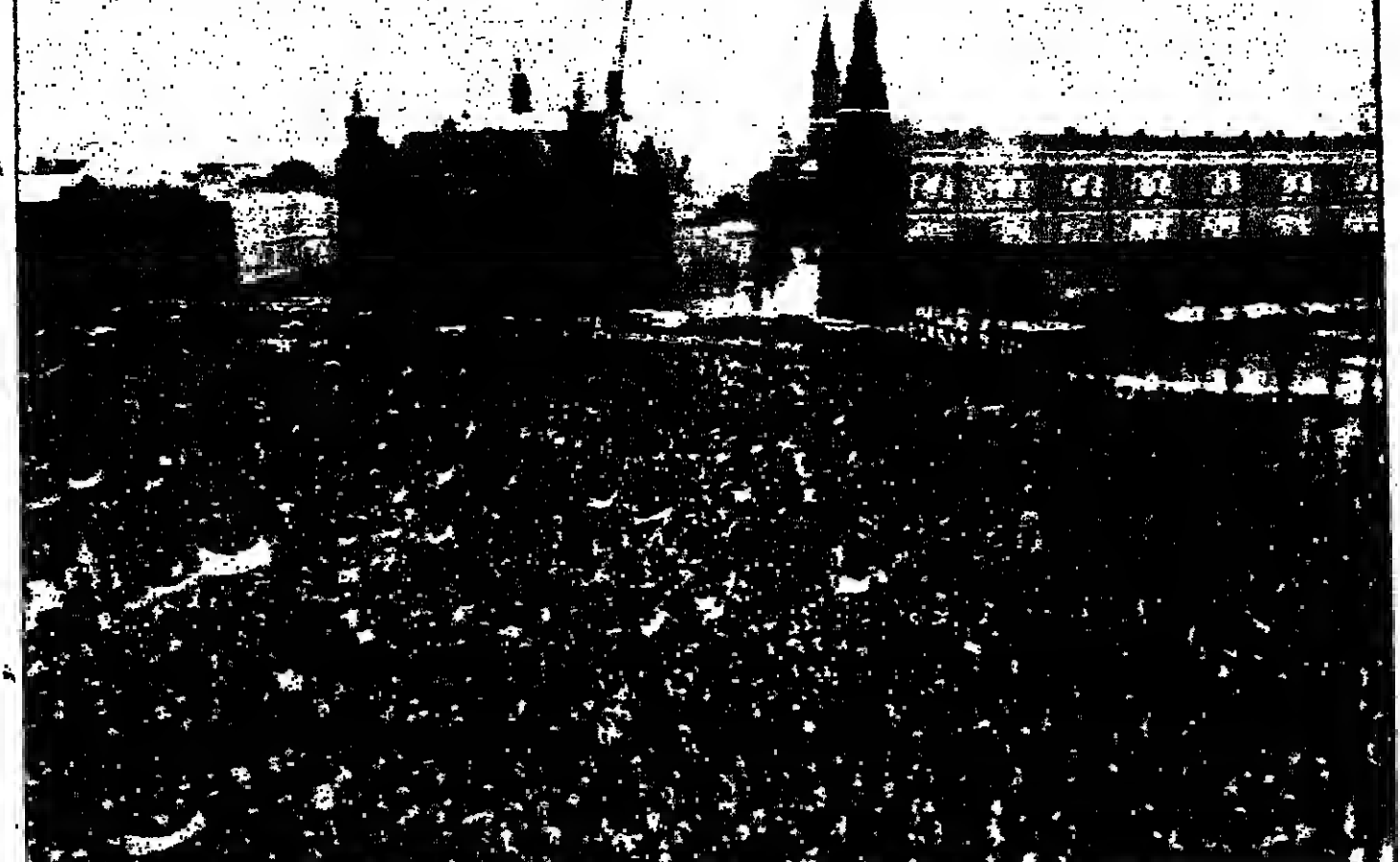
The Soviet leader urged the party to abolish its constitutionally guaranteed monopoly on political power, which has come under increasing attack throughout the country, said

the source.

The central committee meeting opened in the Kremlin a day after about 200,000 protesters marched in the streets of the Soviet capital, demanding that the party embrace radical reforms and end its monopoly on power.

Gorbachev also called for advancing to this summer the next Communist Party congress, theoretically the most powerful party body, which will choose a new central committee, the sources said.

The official news agency Tass said it was proposed to hold the party congress at the end of June or beginning of July.



Hundreds of thousands of prodemocracy demonstrators gather on Moscow's Manege Square in front of the Kremlin (top right). (Reuters wirephoto)

One of the leaders of the rally yesterday, communist reformer Boris N. Yeltsin, said the central committee's plenary meeting represented the party's "last chance."

Tass said Yeltsin, who remains a member of the central committee despite his populist campaign against party privilege, was one of those who spoke after Gorbachev during the opening session of the central committee meeting.

Today's plenum was closed to the press but outside the Kremlin one of those attending, Oleg Nefyodov, gave brief details of Gorbachev's remarks.

"He said it is necessary to take into account reality, that we are living and working already in a multi-party system," Nefyodov reported.

Nefyodov, who is not a member of the central committee but was one of a group of senior scientific and cultural figures invited to attend the session, said the idea that Gorbachev should step down as the party's leader was not mentioned.

"It was not discussed at all. I think it is discussed more in your country than in ours," he told an American television journalist who asked whether there were calls for Gorbachev to retire from his party post.

Gorbachev did not give any detailed proposals about how and under what terms the Soviet Union's multiplicity of political movements could be legalised as political parties, said Nefyodov, a vice president of the Academy of Sciences.

Others present at the session said Gorbachev also proposed replacing the position of party general secretary, which he holds, with a party chairman. This and any other structural changes would have to be approved at the party congress.

Gorbachev spoke for about an hour and 13 other people spoke after him at the opening session of the central committee meeting, which broke for lunch at around 2 pm (1100 GMT).

Those present said the atmosphere had been lively but there had been no direct criticism of Gorbachev's proposals.

As the plenum began this morning, Gorbachev signalled in remarks published by the Communist Party daily Pravda that the ruling party was preparing to give up its monopoly on power.

"The Communist Party lays no claim to monopoly and is prepared to continue joint negotiations," said a statement from the board, which described the action of the authorities in the two villages of Azad and Kamo as "attempted forcible deportation."

"Agreements reached during the consultations, including a joint communiqué, will not be ratified by the Armenian national movement board and are regarded as invalid. Joint consultations and talks can be possible in the future only on condition of the termination of such actions," the Armenians said.

The negotiations in Riga were brokered by representatives of the self-styled Baltic council, made up of the Popular Fronts of the Baltic republics of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.

Popular Fronts are unofficial but legal nationalist movements that have sprung up in recent months throughout the Soviet Union's 15 republics as a result of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's democratic reform policy.

The Armenian and Azerbaijani delegations, which met following an outbreak of ethnic violence in both southern republics and their enclaves of Nagorno-Karabakh and Nakhichevan, had agreed to stop taking hostages and make every effort to settle their differences.

The two sides had agreed to establish permanent contacts in order to curb violence between militants on both sides of the divide.

He warned that the party must reform itself or face losing its authority in Soviet society.

"If the party is not renewed, it will recede into the background," he told the miners, according to Pravda.

Yeltsin, in an interview published today said the Soviet people are fed up with Gorbachev and his days are numbered unless he looks for radical allies.

Yeltsin said the party must end its political monopoly, "the worst scourge of the Stalinist system."

"Gorbachev has deceived us and only a radical change will save him from the abyss towards which he is rushing," he told the Spanish daily El Mundo.

"I believe his days are numbered if he does not ally with forces to his left ... he is going through his worst period, his situation has really deteriorated."



Sri Lanka pageant

A man dressed as Nilame, a past king of Sri Lanka, marked this island country's 42nd year of independence. (Reuters wirephoto)

Slovenia dispute worsens

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia, Feb 5, (AP): Slovenia's liberal communists have broken with the national party, declaring they no longer recognise the institution that has ruled Yugoslavia since World War II.

The move yesterday follows disputes over the pace of democratic reform between Slovenia and archrival Serbia, the largest and most populous of Yugoslavia's six republics.

Last month Slovenia's communists stormed out of a national party congress dominated by hardliners led by Serbia.

The break is the first since the communists took power in 1945.

Yugoslavs have been increasingly critical of the apparent inability of the party's fractious regional leaderships to deal with the worst economic and political crisis under communist rule.

In an emergency meeting yesterday, the Slovenian Party also changed its name and called for the release of all political prisoners, an end to all political trials and immediate talks between Yugoslav communists and leaders of newly formed opposition parties.

Slovenia's Communist Party president, Ciril Ribicic, said the new party was not seeking secession from Yugoslavia but the establishment of a Yugoslav confederation that restricts central authority.

"This is the end of the league of communists of Yugoslavia, in which Slovenian communists had the status of an unequal minority," said Ribicic, using the formal name of the national party.

The national party "doesn't exist any more for us," said Peter Bekes, another Slovenian Party leader.

Slovenian communists, aware of rising criticism of communism in their westward-looking region, have moved quickly in the past three years to create a pluralistic political system.

Their reforms have been criticised harshly in Serbia.

East Germany forms broad coalition govt

Communists in minority

EAST BERLIN, Feb 5, (Reuters): East Germany's Parliament agreed today to include eight opposition figures in a new government of "national responsibility," in which communists are in the minority for the first time in 40 years.

In a televised vote the Parliament, or Volkskammer, voted overwhelmingly to approve communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow's new broader-based government, intended to ensure stability in the run-up to free elections next month and to continue reforms.

"East Germany is no longer governable except through broad responsibility," Modrow told the chamber.

In his statement he also said German unity was inevitable but that it would have to be a careful process.

"Germans' responsibility ... should be shown in their growing together rather than being nailed together," he said.

At separate round table talks between opposition groups and established parties, Economics Minister Christa Luft resisted growing pressure for speedy economic and monetary union with West Germany to save East Germany's crippled economy.

Whether or not to replace the country's non-convertible currency with the West German mark should be decided in a referendum on unification, she said.

Luft also appealed for an immediate West German grant of 10 to 15 billion marks (six to nine billion dollars).

The eight new cabinet members co-opted to help steer East Germany safely to elections are ministers without portfolio, joining a 26-strong administration that took over from the old Stalinist leadership in November.

The new ministers include a

pastor, a church historian, and a human rights activist who for years dodged the attentions of the non-defunct Stasi security police.

They were sworn in by acting head of state Manfred Gerlach.

By taking their seats in government, the eight overruled the communists' majority in the cabinet. The other four non-communist parties in the cabinet had 11 of the 26 posts.

The opposition groups presented a range from the centre-right Democratic Awakening to the broadly leftist New Forum, the umbrella movement that acted as a major catalyst for the peaceful revolution in October and November that overthrew Communist Party chief Erich Honacker.

At the round table talks, New Forum objected to the March 18 election date, now formally approved by the Volkskammer.

The opposition group argued that established parties and those with West German support, like the Social Democrats, had an unfair advantage. But their application to postpone the election was turned down.

The round table also voted to oblige parties and groups at the

round table to stop inviting West German politicians to speak or canvass on their behalf.

With West German politicians turning up virtually everyday, it seems unlikely this resolution will be adhered to.

The Volkskammer later agreed to ban extreme right-wing parties such as the Xenophobic West German-based Republicans.

A round table working group meanwhile called for an end to the persecution of former Stasi security police and urged state enterprises to stop refusing them jobs.

Following is a list of the new ministers, all ministers without portfolio (group or party and profession in brackets): Rainer Eppelmann (Democratic Awakening, pastor); Walter Romberg (Social Democratic Party, mathematician); Sebastian Pfingstl (New Forum, physicist); Wolfgang Ullmann (Democracy Now, historian and legal expert); Klaus Schlüter (Green League, engineer); Matthias Platzeck (Green Party, cyberneticist); Tatjana Boehm (Independent Women's Association, sociologist); Gerd Poppe (Peace and Human Rights Initiative, physicist).

The two Germans' dialogue over their common future is rapidly becoming a virtual monologue as Bonn openly calls the shots on what will or will not be discussed.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl speaks in triumph tones these days as he dismisses East Berlin's proposals, chides the communists for dragging their feet and points the way Bonn wants to see reform in East Germany go.

And step by step, with a reluctance rooted in 40 years of Marxist orthodoxy, East Germany's embattled leaders grit their teeth and drop yet another policy from a party platform that once seemed as solid as the Berlin Wall.



Modrow at a press conference. (Reuters wirephoto)

Azeris accused of truce violation

MOSCOW, Feb 5, (UPI): Armenian nationalists, saying Azerbaijanis have violated a truce agreement by evicting Christian Armenians from two villages, halted talks with their rivals from Azerbaijan.

The Armenians said yesterday they would not participate in further talks because evictions by the Azerbaijani authorities broke the spirit of an agreement reached on Saturday during two days of talks on neutral ground in the Latvian capital of Riga.

"The Armenian national movement board does not find it possible to continue joint negotiations," said a statement from the board, which described the action of the authorities in the two villages of Azad and Kamo as "attempted forcible deportation."

"Agreements reached during the consultations, including a joint communiqué, will not be ratified by the Armenian national movement board and are regarded as invalid. Joint consultations and talks can be possible in the future only on condition of the termination of such actions," the Armenians said.

Sri Lanka frees student detainees

Violence continues

COLOMBO, Feb 5, (Kuna): On a joint request made by Sri Lanka's university premier body which administers the island's universities and the Ministry of Education, 344 university and school students were released yesterday, according to security sources.

All of those released were in detention camps and they were being held for attending subversive lectures, distributing subversive literature and pasting subversive posters, these sources added.

Some of these detainees have been in camps for over a year and have now been rehabilitated. They can get back to their respective institutions without a problem, the sources said.

Those university and school students detained for the commission of serious offences such as murder, arson, etc., will be dealt with legally and their cases are being studied by legal officers, the sources further said.

Meanwhile, military sources said violence erupted yesterday once again in the Galle town, 72 miles south of Colombo in the southern province, where suspected subversives shot and hacked to death three brothers and the sister of an army corporal, Jayampathi.

In Anuradhapura, 140 miles north-east of Colombo in the north-central province, an unknown armed gang shot dead 45-year-old Kapurubandara, his son, his brother and his brother-in-law. Their severely burnt bodies were found by security forces, these sources said.

In the south-eastern Uva province a batch of special task force (STF) commandos, on search operation was fired at by subversives and when the commandos fired back five subversives were killed. Later the commandos recovered a large cache of arms and ammunition from a subversive hideout, a STF source said.

Protest at university relocation

Strike in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Feb 5, (AP): Muslim demonstrators threw stones at police today during a six-hour strike to protest the relocation of a university, witnesses said.

Some policemen threw stones back at the demonstrators and at least 30 people were injured, said the witnesses who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Another 20 were arrested, they said.

The demonstrators were protesting plans to move the Islamic University from Gazipur, 32 kilometres (20 miles) north of Dhaka, to Kushtia, 130 kilometres (80 miles) to the west.

The demonstrators allege the move to Kushtia was planned by former prime minister Shah Azizur Rahman, who is from the area.

The demonstrators say Gazipur is a better site because of its proximity to Dhaka.

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A proven successful record in training and development together with an analytical ability and communication skills are the fundamental qualifications for the appointment.

If you are interested in joining us at a key time in our development, please send your C.V. indicating how your experience and personal qualities will enhance your performance in this role.

Please send your C.V. to: Director Human Resources, P.O. Box 28671, Safat 13127, Kuwait.

Defence budget gives clues about how Bush wants military to prepare for future

WASHINGTON, Feb 5, (AP): President George Bush's new defence budget doesn't offer a long-range vision in a time of revolutionary change, but it gives some short-term clues about how Bush wants the military to prepare for the years to come.

The President made headlines with last week's proposal to strip hundreds of thousands of US and Soviet troops from the European continent. But his \$292.1-billion budget proposal also reveals a conservative, take-it-slow approach in many areas.

The 1991 plan takes only tentative steps into a new era with a modest troop reduction of 38,000 in the coming year, cutbacks in about 20 minor conventional weapon programmes, and continued funding for several futuristic

weapons systems from the Reagan administration, such as the Strategic Defence Initiative, also known as "Star Wars."

Dramatic change is difficult to achieve in one year, defence officials say, given the long lead time required to adjust high-tech weapons programmes and to reduce the military force of 2.1 million.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, appearing on a national television programme yesterday, said it "makes no sense" to cut major weapons programmes now because "we have to deal with Soviet military capabilities and not just intentions."

"There is still enormous nuclear capability" and the Soviets have not shown they are prepared to change that,

Cheney said.

The budget opts for continued modernisation of the nation's strategic nuclear forces, including funds for more B-2 Stealth bombers, MX missiles, the Midgarden missile, a Trident submarine and Trident missiles.

The cuts in conventional weapons came more easily, the secretary said, because fewer such arms will be needed as the military force is reduced.

The army has argued that in an era of lessened superpower conflict in Europe, it now must prepare for Third World, low-intensity conflicts that require a lighter, more flexible force, as demonstrated in the Panama invasion.

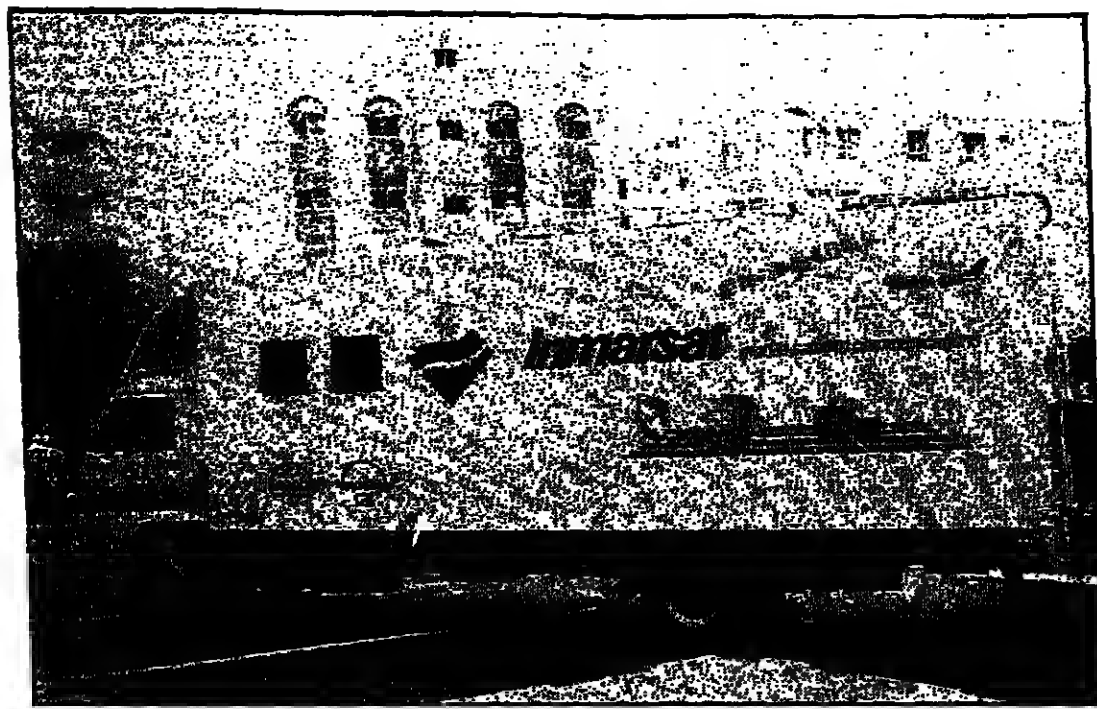
As a result, the army procurement budget was cut by \$4 billion from last year, but its research and development

programmes grew by \$1 billion, in the interest of developing such things as a light tank.

Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned Congress last week the military spending must not be slashed willy-nilly amid the calls for foreign-based troop withdrawals and tight budgets.

Even if Bush's call to draw US troop levels down to 225,000 in Europe is agreed upon, it would take place over a span of not to two years, Cheney told lawmakers.

Congress expressed some impatience with Cheney's lack of information on long-range Pentagon plans for troop cuts and weapons programmes, with Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sen. Sam Nunn complaining of "a number of blanks in the budget."



Communication

Delegates of the International Marine Satellite Communications, INMARSAT, are holding talks with Kuwaiti officials on means of strengthening relations. The team also brought a mobile satellite communication vehicle (pictured above). They also inspected ministry installations.

Sharp decline in fertility, birth rate

Literacy, late marriages responsible

HIGHER education, literacy and late marriages have significantly contributed to a sharp drop in fertility among women, both Kuwaitis and expatriates, in Kuwait, according to a study conducted by the Ministry of Planning.

The study, recently released by the ministry, says the birth rate has dropped in Kuwait in the last 20 years.

It found that Kuwaiti and expatriate working women are less fertile than housewives. It said this is the direct result of higher education and postponement of marriage.

The study found that most young people in Kuwait, both males and females, had the tendency to marry late, thus contributing to a drop in fertility among them. Fertility and the rate of birth drops sharply among educated women compared to the uneducated ones, it said. The average number of births among the age group 20 and 24 was 2.1 among illiterate wives and 0.79 among wives holding university

degrees.

The birth rate was 6.83 among uneducated women and 3.42 among literate women among women in the age group between 45 and 49 years.

It said the birth rate, which was 45 per 1,000 of the population in 1970, dropped to 30 per 1,000 in 1986. The fertility rate, similarly, dropped from 7 to 4.4 during the same period.

The main reason for the fall in the rate of births and fertility has been attributed to a drop in fertility among expatriates. The birth rate among them dropped from 44 per thousand in 1970 to 21 in 1986.

There was a slight drop in the rate of fertility among Kuwaitis. The study said the maximum rate of birth among Kuwaitis was reached in 1975 with 51 births per 1,000 Kuwaitis. This dropped to 44.5 per cent in 1986.

The study said that the main factors for the relatively high fertility and birth rates among Kuwaitis include improved health

services, a rise in earnings and the age of Kuwaitis. Government incentives to encourage marriage among Kuwaitis, and increase the birth rate, was to some extent responsible for the high rate of birth among them, it said.

According to the latest population census, Kuwaitis form about 28 per cent of the over 1.9 million population of Kuwait. The study said that the main factor in the drop of birth rate among expatriates was due to an increased tendency among women to work. It said that most expatriate women who came to Kuwait recently came to take up jobs and not to join their husbands. It said, the number of children joining their parents also fell in the past decade.

The study also said that 5 per cent fertility was contributed by women under 20 years of age, while women over 40 years contributed by 7 per cent with the bulk of births among women in the 20s. The largest

contribution, however, came from women in the age group between 25-29 years. It said that 41 per cent of drop in birth rate among Kuwaitis and 73 per cent of expatriates, is attributed to the "drop in marriage fertility," referring to the changes in marriage ages among both males and females in recent years. The average age at first marriage for males and females together increased from 20.8 years in 1975 to 22.4 years in 1985, an increase of 1.6 years in a decade. Similarly, the percentage of married Kuwaiti girls between 15-19 years dropped from 28 per cent in 1975 to 19.7 per cent in 1980 and further dropped to just 17.6 per cent in 1985, a drop of 10.4 per cent over one decade. The percentage of married Kuwaiti girls in the age group between 20-24 years, also dropped from 65.8 per cent in 1975 to 58.6 per cent in 1985. But the drop in the number of marriages among these two groups was partially compensated among higher age groups.

Divorces rise

By Sayed Othman

DIVORCE cases registered considerable increase during the first half of 1989, according to statistics issued by the Computer Centre of Kuwait's Ministry of Justice.

During the first six-month period, 1,453 divorce cases had been recorded and a total of 3,000 cases were registered for the year 1989.

Statistics indicated that 863 Kuwaiti men divorced their wives of whom 74 per cent were Kuwaiti women, while 590 expatriates divorced their wives during the same period of whom 17 per cent were Kuwaiti women.

Percentage wise, Kuwaiti divorced women accounted for 53 per cent of the cases, while Kuwaiti males accounted for 59 per cent. Kuwaiti males who divorced their wives during the first half of 1989 accounted for 442 polygamous marriages reflecting 30 per cent of such divorce.

Most divorce cases could be attributed to incompatibility in ages coupled with polygamy. About 36 per cent of divorces

occurred among couples whose marriage life was less than five years, 31 per cent whose marriage life lasted some months. Those whose marriages had lasted 20 years and over constituted for only 5 per cent. Most divorces were finalised amicably — only 408 cases were decided by the courts.

Ages of divorced women ranged between 20 to 29 years and ages of men ranged between 25 to 29 years with 382 divorces, 30 to 34 years, 270 cases and 35 to 44 with 297 cases and those over 45 years of age, 265 cases.

Statistics indicate that 32 per cent of divorced women had an intermediate education level, 27 per cent general secondary certificate and 8 per cent were graduates.

Men mostly had either intermediate certificates or secondary certificates and 13 per cent were graduates. Education plays a vital role in bringing down the divorce rate, the study said.

Hawalli governorate topped the list of divorces with 736, Ahmadi 283, Jahra 211 and the Capital 114, according to statistics.

Walking around the world

ABU DHABI, Feb 5, (Kuna): Two Algerian travellers Mahfouz Gaseer, 34, and Ibrahim Mansouri, 20, will walk to Oman within the framework of their journey around the world.

Both arrived here last week from Qatar.

The travellers began their journey last July from Algeria from where they headed for Morocco, Spain, France, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

They will conclude their scheduled visit to the United Arab Emirates tomorrow after travelling on foot through the emirates of Sharjah, Ajman, Um Al Qiwain, Ras Al Khaima, Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Costly Camel!

MUSCAT, Feb 5, (Kuna): An Omani citizen refused to sell a winning camel for 53,000 riyals (about US dollars 136,000) and asked for 20,000 riyals more, Oman news agency said Monday.

The camel, owned by Musallam Bin Rashid of Al Dhahira, is three years old and has recently won a 3.5 kilometre camel-race, the agency said, noting that the camel is named Bint Al Hafinaya.

The mother of Bint Al Hafinaya was sold last year for 73,000 riyals to a citizen from the United Arab Emirates and has won a first place in a camel-race there this year, OMA said.

Camel-racing attracts huge crowds in the area especially in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia where big awards await contestants.



Sri Lankan reception

Sri Lankan Ambassador Latif Sheriffdeen on Sunday hosted a reception to celebrate his country's National Day. Diplomats, Kuwaiti officials and Sri Lankans attended. (Above): Sheriffdeen (second right) seen cutting the cake with Kuwait's Minister for Service Affairs, Essa Al Mazaidi. (Below): Counsellor Atugoda receiving one of the guests.



Lunar eclipse on Friday 44 minutes long

A TOTAL lunar eclipse is expected to be seen in Kuwait on Friday evening and will last for 44 minutes, sources at the Ojairi observatory and the Kuwait Science Club said.

The entire process of lunar passing into total eclipse would take three hours and 35 minutes, while the actual process of the moon sliding into and out of the shade will take five hours and 43 minutes, they said.

They said the lunar eclipse will start at 8.29 and will be partially visible; the total eclipse will commence at around 9.49 pm.

They said the mid-phase of the eclipse will occur at about 10.11 pm and the total eclipse will end, and the partial phase will begin, at about 10.33 pm. It will end at about 11.54 pm.

The lunar eclipse is expected to be visible in Australia, Asia, Africa and Europe.

Ropme rules out toxic waste report

KUWAIT, Feb 5, (Kuna): A Kuwaiti daily today claimed the presence of a foreign ship in Al Shuwaikh harbour carrying toxic waste, but general co-ordinator of the Regional Organisation for Protection of Marine Environment (Ropme) refuted the claim.

Speaking to Al Anbaa' newspaper, Dr. Badriya Al-Awadhi said this was confirmed through contacts between the organisation and concerned parties, contending that "reports in this respect are baseless."

The daily said it had received telephone contacts confirming that one of three ships left Gabon port to the Red Sea and was carrying poisonous waste. The ship was barred from entering Egypt, and left for the Arabian Gulf where it anchored at the Kuwaiti Shuwaikh Port, the paper added.

The ship was carrying freights of frozen meat to giant hotels here, Al Anbaa' noted.

To the meantime, Dr. Al-Awadhi pointed out that Ropme members will sign a special protocol to protect marine environment during their seventh ministerial meeting which is due here on February 21-22.

Perfume exhibition

KUWAIT, Feb 5, (Kuna): More than 70 local and foreign companies will be displaying their latest products in the perfume and cosmetics exhibit that will open Tuesday at the Kuwait International Fairground.

Drug pushers jailed

A MAN was sentenced to three and a half years imprisonment and a KD100 fine by the Court of Higher Appeals. The man was accused of possessing 200,000 tablets of narcotics for the purpose of trafficking. A pistol was also found in his possession.

A second man was accused of taking part in the crime and was sentenced by the same court to two and a half years imprisonment.

Security men who masterminded the arrest of the convict told the court they recovered narcotic tablets and a pistol from the accused. The defendant also confessed that he was also hiding a quantity of seized tablets in an old water tank and that he had given the second defendant an amount of these tablets for trafficking.

Money-exchanger acquitted

THE Criminal Court has acquitted a local money-exchanger of the charge of distributing counterfeit 100-dollar notes.

The court heard that a Kuwaiti citizen had exchanged money at the defendant's shop for Turkish and US dollar currencies. Subsequently, he learnt from the hotel management in Turkey that three 100-dollar bills were fake, which he kept to return to the money exchanger in Kuwait.

The defendant denied having seen the plaintiff before or exchanging money for him. When the case was brought to court, the defendant was acquitted for lack of incriminating evidence. Further, counsel for the wife of the plaintiff that he had exchanged US dollars in Turkey on two different occasions.

250 fils fine

THE Criminal Court has refrained from ruling against a man charged with possession of drugs hidden in his socks, but ordered him to submit a written pledge of good conduct for six months and fined him: KD0.250 as charges for violating customs regulation.

The court heard that the man had his suitcase searched at the airport by a customs officer, but although nothing was found with him, the man remained nervous.

The officer grew suspicious and conducted a body search only to find a piece of hashish hidden in his socks.

Forger jailed

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man convicted of forgery to three years in jail with hard labour to be followed with deportation.

The court was told that the man was arrested on a liquor charge. The arresting officer found two membership cards with the accused — one for a youth centre and the other for a religious institute. Suspecting the authenticity of the cards, the officer forwarded them to investigative authorities.

Specialists at the Forgery Research Division at the General Department for Criminal Evidence said that the photos were superimposed and the seal was drawn by hand with ink different in quality from that of the original seal.

The accused confessed that he had stolen the cards from his cousins and affixed his personal identification in a move designed to provide him with some official documents.

Forged passport

THE Criminal Court recently refrained from pronouncing judgement against a defendant accused of forgery, a local daily reported.

The court was told that the defendant entered the country with a passport which had a page of another passport holding legal residence.

Although the court found the accused guilty as claimed by the public prosecutor, it took the mitigating circumstances into consideration in abstaining from sentencing the accused.

Pornography

THE Court of Misdemeanours acquitted a shop owner dealing with selling pornographic tapes.

The court was told that inspectors from the Ministry of Information had seized pornographic tapes from the shop of the accused.

However, in his defence, the owner said that these tapes were seized from a locked drawer which originally belonged to a salesman who had recently been dismissed from services.

The court acquitted the defendant due to lack of convincing evidence that the tapes were indeed his.

Phone sets available

300,000 subscribers

MINISTER of Communications Abdullah Al Sharhan has said that the total number of telephone lines currently in service exceeds 300,000. That is a great number considering the population of Kuwait, he said.

The minister said subscribers can now buy their telephone sets from the ministry for KD 10 a piece. However, if they wish to use the ministry sets, returnable after disconnection, the ministry charges KD 14. However, in some cases the telephone sets were not taken back from the subscribers if the maintenance posts were paid, he said.

He said the ministry takes KD 95 subscription fees from each subscriber but this sum does not include the cost of the telephone set. He said in the beginning this created misunderstanding between some subscribers and ministry technicians.

The KD 95 charges are broken down into KD 30 fee for connection services, KD 30 annual subscription, KD 30 as insurance from non-Kuwaiti subscribers and KD 5 revenue.

More NHA projects in offing

THE Director of Planning Department at Kuwait's National Housing Authority (NHA) Abdullah Al-Haidar was quoted as saying that the authority has requested Kuwait Municipality to add the northern part opposite to the sea to East Suburb Housing Project.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said this part will be utilised as sea front for beautification and environmental purposes. He added that the project's implementation process will begin by the commencement of 1991 and is expected to be completed by mid 1993. He clarified that this housing project will consist of 1,215 houses with an area of 250 square metres each. This project is the second project in the NHA's four five year plan, the official said.

He said the project will cost about KD 80 million and will include the necessary facilities including schools, markets, gardens and health clinics, adding that project will be constructed on an area of 85 hectares and its population will be about 10,000.

The project will include the constructions of two primary schools, two intermediate schools, car parkings and one mosque, Haidar said.

Iraqis oppose migration

BAGHDAD, Feb 5, (Kuna): An Iraqi newspaper on Sunday lashed out at the Soviet Jews immigration to Israeli-occupied Arab territories and said Arabs are not prepared to pay the cost of world detente.

Al Thwrah daily emphasised that current developments might achieve peace for superpowers but would push the Mideast region toward tension.

"Arabs oppose to be the first who pay the cost of international detente policy," the paper said, adding that it was not a mere chance that the United States closed down its doors before Soviet Jewish emigrants at this particular time.

The daily accused Washington of deliberately working for organising the Soviet Jews immigration and their settlement in Arab occupied lands at the expense of the Palestinians.

The Iraqi newspaper appealed to the international community to live up to its responsibilities and block attempts of further violations of Palestinians and Arab historical rights in occupied Palestine.

GCC book show due in March

THE Assistant Rector for Society and Information Services at the University of Kuwait, Dr Rasha Al Sabah said that the university will host the third book exhibition for GCC universities from March 17-21, 1990 as recommended by the Arab Education Office for Gulf states.

She pointed out that the exhibition is held once every two years in one of the GCC member states. The first exhibition was held at the campus of the United Arab Emirates University in Al Ain in 1986; the second was held at King Saud University in Riyadh in 1988. She said the past two exhibitions were highly successful.

She said the aim of the exhibition is to encourage the publication of scientific magazines at Arab Gulf universities and to urge professors, students and other educational establishments to take up scientific and intellectual projects.

The exhibition will include forms and copies of all publications issued by the universities like translated and written books.

Dr Rasha said that the University of Kuwait is also currently preparing to hold a regional conference on eradication of illiteracy.

The United Nations Education Culture and Sciences Organisation has directed the university to form a special National Committee for Illiteracy Eradication in order to take part in the International Year activities in 1990.

Dr Rasha said that after students graduate from the university they will start a new stage of their lives. Therefore, the university is currently viewing the possibility of organising training and comprehensive courses for graduate students in order to qualify them to join the manpower market. She said that most of the courses will put more emphasis on a number of specialties including commerce, engineering, and oil related areas.

The projects of the committee are financed by Muslims and organisations in Kuwait and in the Arab Gulf states. The committee also has activities in some European countries to collect contributions for its activities which at the present time are concentrated on Afghanistan.

The committee co-operates with the Saudi Red Crescent Society and the Saudi Committee of Afghan Mijahedeen and Refugees. Last year, Islamic Daawa Committee transported 11,000 injured persons. The health units of the committee received about 700,000 Afghan patients during the last two years.

The committee has a medical centre in the midst of seven refugee camps, 15 intermediate and secondary schools, besides 30 centres for teaching the Holy Quran. The committee will build an orphanage house for which the foundation stone has already been laid.

Amir contributed to Afghani teachers institute

3,000 'Arab' mujahedeen

HH the Amir has contributed to the building of an institute for Afghani teachers which is to be built on an area of 10,000 square metres, according to Majed Al Saud Al Rifai, head of the Islamic Daawa Committee at the Social Reform Society.

The committee built the first surgical hospital in Afghanistan and is staffed exclusively by Arabs. The hospital is located only 50 kilometres from Kabul. The committee has also provided for 15 units to receive civil patients and maintains border emergency points and 200 ambulance personnel within Afghanistan.

All personnel are Afghani nationals trained by the committee to undertake ambulance and nursing duties. In addition, the committee has 140 teachers graduated from the Eastern Institute who run schools and mosques within Afghanistan.

The committee was established six years ago when there was no charity committee to support Afghani mujahedeen and is presently engaged in carrying out several medical and educational projects within Afghanistan.

Rifai pointed out that there are about 3,000 Arab mujahedeen fighting alongside Afghani mujahedeen, but only 10 to 15 are Kuwaiti nationals. He added that the number of Saudi mujahedeen total 1,000.

The official said that Afghani mujahedeen launched the war against communists two decades before the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The Russians decided to invade Afghanistan when they found that communists could not control the situation.

According to statistics, there are about 6.5 million Afghani refugees of whom 3.5 million are in Pakistan, 1.5 million in Iran and the balance are refugees living inside Afghanistan, but in different areas. He added that the committee views the situation in refugee camps as still "very bad" and is doing its utmost to provide every form of support.

The committee is now making a comprehensive study in China to carry out a number of charity projects. There are

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Japanese dancers

Elegant, refined and sophisticated

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

MUCH of Japanese folk dancing can be traced to the chores performed by Japanese farmers over the centuries, it was said in the programme notes at the Japanese folk dance show Sunday night. But the Japanese women dancers, in their elegant costumes that seem to restrict their graceful movements, appeared to have little in common with rice-planting peasant women of medieval Japan. On the contrary, they were the very personification of elegance, refinement, subtlety and composure. But then one has learnt to expect sophistication from a country whose one major tradition has been to look for and create beauty even in most mundane of situations.

While women dancers of the Japan Folk Dance Ensemble glided on the stage, their fans extensions of their hands, the men, some in the ceremonial attire, with their war cries and ferocious beating of the drums portrayed dignity and valour.

Both were challenged by monsters, serpents, gigantic spiders or vengeful spirits that gave rise to more sword drawing, stomping of the feet and wild drum beating among the men and flut-

tering and praying among women.

In an extraordinarily vigorous and almost reckless drum beating five men wearing scary masks took turns in bashing the drum, at the sides and on top, at times three of them having a go at the same time. As it progressed the number appeared to be more of an endurance test than a performance. It did have a function though. In the ancient times, the legend says, it was a call from the god of war to his soldiers and a warning to the enemy. Today it could have a more therapeutic role, allowing stress-stricken workaholics to give vent to their frustrations.

Several numbers, performed by the Japan Folk Dance Ensemble, that gave another show last night at the Kuwait Regency Palace hotel, were based on ancient legends depicting the battle between good and evil forces. These dances gave ample opportunity to dancers, costume and prop-makers and choreographers to display their artistry, which they did with aplomb and flourish. The live accompaniment of gongs, bells, flutes, drums and shamisen, a Japanese string instrument, enhanced the performance adding that extra edge to dramatic scenes and mellow notes to lyrical moments.

Diplomat killings in Thailand

Saudis accuse Iran of sponsoring terrorism

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Feb 5, (AP) — Pro-government newspapers Sunday accused Iran of sponsoring state terrorism and unleashed a broadside against Tehran following the assassination of three Saudi embassy officials in Bangkok last week.

They hailed a call by 114 members of the 170-member Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly Friday for the United Nations to expel Iran, charging Tehran authorities had executed 90,000 people since June 1981.

The Al Yawm daily declared that the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini used terrorism as a matter of policy and noted that it has continued since he died June

3, despite the emergence of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-called pragmatists.

Noting the European move, the Al Jazira daily declared "It is useless to pin hopes on the emergence of a moderate trend among the ranks of Tehran's rulers."

"This is a new document with which to envelop the black record of a regime that insists on being isolated internationally and despised at home and abroad."

Al Yawm said Iran was "no stranger" to terrorism and noted: "It is folly to believe that a moderate line might emerge to change the policy of the Iranian

rulers."

The Al Medina daily said: "Iran has taken terrorism as a profession... it has become a den for terrorism in all its forms and colours."

It added: "What the European Council demanded reflects the despair of the international community in seeing that regime reform itself or changes its behaviour."

Saudi Arabia severed its ties with Iran in April 1988, accusing Tehran of terrorism and subversion.

The newspaper hinted that Iran was behind the assassination of the three Saudis in Thailand last week.

The three men, killed within minutes of each other in Bangkok, were Second Secretary and consul head Abdullah Abdulrahman Al Basri, 32, Consul Officer Fahd Abdullah Al Bahli, 35 and telex operator Ahmed Abdullah Al Saif, 26.

Pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim groups waging a campaign of terror against the kingdom have claimed responsibility for killing several Saudi diplomats or embassy employees in Beirut, Ankara and Brussels over the last two years.

Thai authorities have theorised that the slaying of the three men, along with the death of

another Saudi diplomat killed in Bangkok last year, were linked to the issuing of visas to Thais seeking work in oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

"The matter should be taken far more seriously than that... the crime is too big to be covered up for it as a terrorist operation..." the Al Riyadh daily said.

Saudi Arabia last week retaliated for the slayings by stopping all visas for Thais and warned that it might pull out its embassy staff from Bangkok.

The labour ban could have a severe impact on Thailand as thousands of its nationals work in the Gulf and remit millions of dollars in earnings every year.

Saudi Arabia is a member of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council along with Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. The GCC countries seek to co-ordinate their economic policies.

There are an estimated 200,000 Thai workers in the GCC countries. That includes 140,000 in Saudi Arabia, which has an estimated six million expatriates working on development projects.

Leaders of the GCC states have condemned the "ugly" and "terrorist" crime in Bangkok and sent cables of condolences to the Saudi monarch, King Fahd.



Shinja and Killer fight it out in the arena.

Prize-fighting

It's a dog's life

DOG fights — that's what they are, somewhere in the desert wilderness, and far from civilisation. In Kuwait, dog fighting has been outlawed, but it is a game that is not only being played, but enjoyed by a group of people who train the dogs for the prize fights in the desert.

The dog-fights are held on the sandy ground, where a wrestling ring is erected for the purpose. There is betting, shouting and all the excitement that goes with wrestling matches. Only, this time the fighters are trained dogs.

The scene is set long before the match begins with spectators taking notes as the commentator calls out the names of dogs participating in the day's matches. The day the Arabic newspaper reporter went to watch the match between the two dogs named Shinja and Killer, the hot favourites, as it were to compete.

Once the names are announced, betting starts. On one game as much as KD 8,050 were placed on bets. Then, the real excitement starts as the jockeys carrying the dogs approach the arena. The dogs are let loose from their kennels and they have to fight their way out through a narrow passageway that leads to the wrestling arena. As

soon as the owners let go off the leashes, the bloodhounds fall over each other in a bid to emerge winners.

Although the excited voices of spectators pitched higher and higher as the blood oozed from their wounds, it was a devastating experience. The 15-minute match was terrifying, to say the least. 'Killer' was declared the winner after biting off Shinja's nose. The winning bloodhound was given a huge medal as a reward for the bloody fight he had put up.

The owners of the bloodhounds refused to divulge their names but said that it was their hobby. They were aware that the sport is prohibited by the law in Kuwait but said it was practiced in many world countries. One owner said he had a breed of dogs, specially trained for such prize-fighting. "Training," he said, "was vital to win."

The dogs are imported from such countries as India and Pakistan and cost between KD 600 and KD 1,700. The most popular prize-fighters in Kuwait are called "Tiger," "Jaiker" and "Shinja."

One wonders if the effort of putting animals to such pain is well-worth the enjoyment, if any, one might get from such sports.

Thais form task force to hunt two killers

BANGKOK, Feb 5, (Reuters) — Thai police on Monday said they had set up a special task force to find the killers of three Saudi embassy staff members.

Police said the 36-man team expected to find the two killers soon. They said one was Thai and the other from a Middle Eastern country.

Riyadh banned the recruitment of Thai workers after the three men were shot dead in broad daylight in a busy Bangkok residential area last Thursday.

Thai officials said they hoped the ban would be lifted soon. There are 100,000 Thai workers in Saudi Arabia, by far the biggest number of Thai nationals in the foreign country.

They said the killings were motivated by a dispute over the recruitment of Thai labour rather than international terrorism.

"Regrettably, the Saudi Arabian government seems to already hold Thailand responsible for the murders just because they took place in Bangkok," the English-language Nation newspaper said in an editorial on Monday.

Government spokesman Savit Yodmanee said total remittances from Thai labour abroad were a major source of national income, worth 35 billion baht (1.4 billion dollars) a year.

Complaints

Poor quality services

A NUMBER of citizens have criticised the level of performance of some services offered by the Ministry of Communications, according to a local daily.

Nawaf Naser said that "eavesdropping" on telephone conversations is increasing and this constitutes a serious breach of individual privacy. Additionally, it takes days before technicians of the ministry attend to complaints. He urged officials at the complaints section to strictly control these services.

Marzouk Al Ajmi criticised the performance of the '101' service and said that the operator has a standard reply "lines are busy." More importantly, he said that on numerous occasions overseas calls are billed erroneously. To compound the issue, the ministry obliges subscribers to pay these bills without investigating into the bonafides of the subscriber.

Mansour Al Sibaiman called on the ministry to install telephone cabins at public places specialised for overseas calls as in many foreign countries. He claimed that the booths at the central are insufficient and the public have to wait for several hours before being able to obtain external calls. Such facilities could be installed at co-operative societies, markets

and other public places, he said.

Abdul Latif Khaled criticised the "bureaucracy" when subscribers apply to the ministry to monitor their telephones. Applicants have to go personally to the ministry and the application has to be signed by a "host of officials." He said that monitoring can be done through the central without the need for a personal appearance.

Abdulla Khilawi called for developing the car telephone services offered by the Ministry of Communications as the ministerial car telephone is less efficient than the car telephone service offered by the Mobile Telephone Company.

He suggested that the ministerial service should be transferred to a private company in order to have two mobile telephone companies in Kuwait which would provide competition and lead to developing this service.

Khalaf Bader said that the postal services are deplorable. Letters are delivered very late, and sometimes letters are wrongly delivered. He also criticised the ministry for increasing charges on cables without providing any development in these services. He said that previously he was paying 0.250 fils for local telegrams which consisted of 60 words.

GCC-Japan ties

Talks start to map strategy

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Feb 5, (AP) — Officials from Japan and the Gulf Co-operation Council began meetings at GCC headquarters today to map future political and economic co-operation.

The meeting, led by Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Hishashi Owada and the GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara, came as efforts are being stepped up to bolster relations between the Asian giant and its major oil suppliers.

The GCC delegation includes representatives of the six member states that make up the alliance — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

The GCC is an 8-year-old quest for a common market of the conservative Arab states of the Gulf, who sit on more than 40 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves. The other major oil reserves are in the United States

and the Soviet Union.

More Tokyo delegations have been showing up in the Middle East of late. Japan already imports more than two-thirds of its oil from the Gulf, which also includes Iraq and Iran as well as the GCC countries.

But various international oil studies have been pointing to increasing consumption rates in Japan and elsewhere in the industrialised world, and to increase dependence on Gulf oil as other sources taper off.

A GCC spokesman said the meeting was to deal with "a number of political and economic topics that contribute to bolstering joint co-operation between the two sides, led by trade, investment and transfer of technology."

The same official also said the meeting was part of a series the GCC secretariat was conducting to foster co-operation with

various international economic blocs and powers.

The GCC countries seek to break away from being mere exporters of crude oil into developing sophisticated industrial bases with the help of the most advanced technology they can secure world-wide.

They also are geared to developing integrated oil industries from oil well to the retail end through joint ventures with the major consuming centres.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer returned home this weekend from his first official visit to Japan in pursuit of that objective.

Additionally, officials in the GCC countries have been harping on the theme that without becoming a strong economic bloc on their own, they will not be able to stand in a world that will soon see other blocs solidified with the birth of a united European market in 1992.

Ziben opens aviation meet

DIRECTOR General of Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) Ahmed Al Ziben yesterday inaugurated the conference of Asian Airlines Association for human resources development.

Ziben delivered a speech at the meeting in which he pointed out the good progress realised by the Asian airlines companies over the past five years.

He urged these companies to work together in order to face the future challenges of the nineties.

Meanwhile, Director of the Development and Training Department of the KAC Adel Al Shimali said that ranking officials from 20 airlines are taking part in the two-day conference which is due to discuss issues that concern the companies such as planning, administration, training and development of human resources.

He added that the association will hold its expanded conference in Kuwait in February next year. It will be attended by representatives of 25 Asian airlines companies.

He further said that the conference will discuss the future challenges facing the Asian airlines companies and administrative development at the member companies.

Ghezali arrives

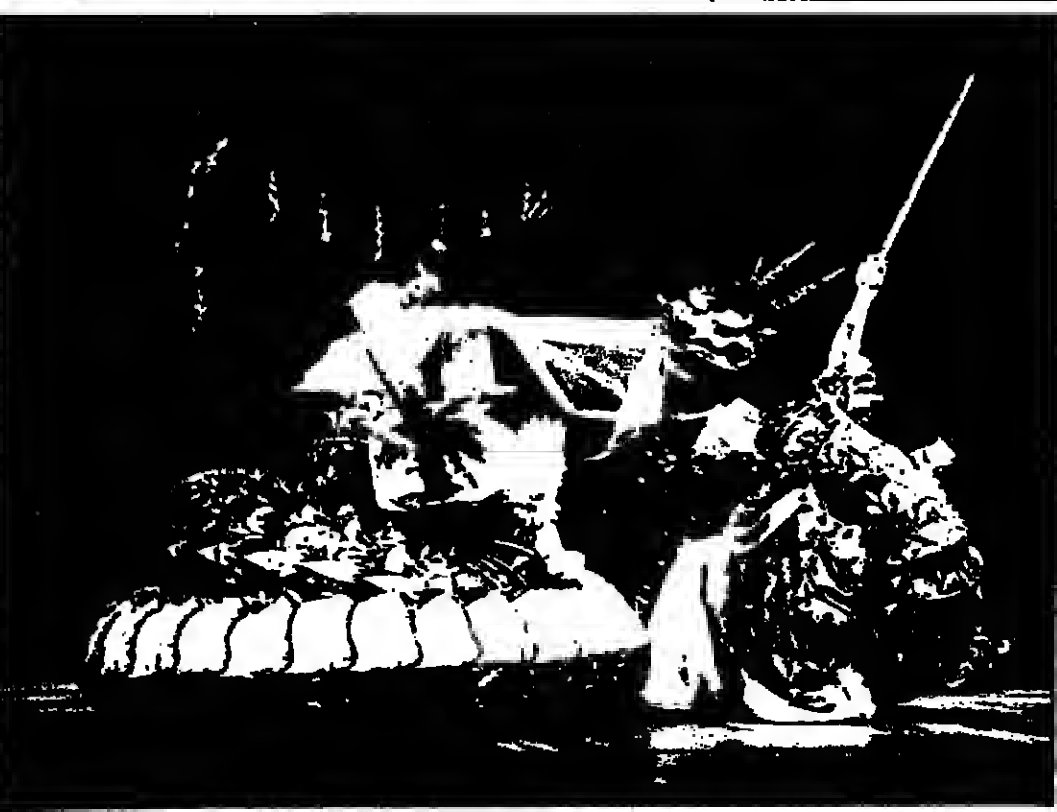
ALGERIAN Foreign Minister Sid Ahmad Ghezali will arrive in Kuwait today, it was announced here.

The visit comes in reply to an invitation by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber and is expected to center on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Indian shoplifter

ABU DHABI, Feb 5, (Reuters) — The first customer at a new supermarket in the United Arab Emirates was a shoplifter, a United Arab Emirates newspaper said today.

The Al Bayan newspaper said an Indian man was arrested with several items hidden in his pockets at the shop in the city of Ras Al Khaimah.



Spring camping season starts

Creating social awareness in family atmosphere

THE Social Reform Society opened on Saturday evening its seasonal spring camp.

In a key-note address, the assistant undersecretary for Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Abdul Rahman Al Mazroui, stressed the responsibility to be shouldered by every individual towards protecting the wilderness and local environment.

Also speaking on the occasion, the secretary-general of the society Abdullah Al Atiqi said that the camp is part of the society's efforts to develop its social activities and reinforce its relations and co-operation with all social welfare centres in the best interest of the public.

He added that the camp this year will accord special attention to raising public awareness of topical social issues and propose effective remedies while providing a healthy social entertainment ground during the spring holidays.

A social specialist from the

ministry, Dr Abdul Raouf Al Jir-dawi delivered a lecture on the grave responsibility that befalls parents in providing decent upbringing and education to their children. He highlighted the common erroneous patterns which mainly result in the deprivation of the child from essential parental care and attention.

He said that other negative patterns lay in the misuse of overuse of punitive measures to deter antisocial child patterns which often led to the development of a sense of injustice and lack of confidence by children which led to the emergence of social animosity and consequently delinquency.

He also touched upon the chronic problem of reliance on hired household which gravely affected the children's social conduct and character development. He pointed out that statistic recorded of delinquent cases in 1987 revealed that Kuwaitis formed 61 per cent of delinquents

while 54 per cent of these cases emerged during the secondary school education.

A social survey of existing government social institutions revealed the disintegrating family life and the absence of the "right example to follow" for children.

Addition to liquor or drugs are primarily the result of a lack of proper family supervision, Jir-dawi said.

Camping, a time-honoured Kuwaiti tradition in which people establish close contact with nature.

Khaled Hasan in an interview, said that his family are frequent campers in the desert and have come to appreciate the beauty of nature and believe that these outings are quite invigorating. It also provides the entire family with an opportunity to work together by contributing to the day-to-day needs of the camp.

However, he said that during the recent past, the municipality had banned setting up camps in

pre-designated areas, leaving only a small area free for campers. This has restricted privacy and the involvement of various activities.

Khaled Ahmad, another camper said that the spot where they camp suffers from the absence of municipal cleaning services. Additionally, mobile grocers were banned from entering the camping areas. He added that the closest Bayan Supermarket branch had taken advantage of the situation and hiked prices of commodities.

Jasem Mohammad said that there is plenty to do out in the wilderness and everyone can engage in sporting and other activities. However, he said that reckless drivers chase girls and called for regular police patrols.

Moza Mosa Al Asfour said that the municipality refuse collecting squad were always there to keep the camping area clean. Unfortunately, the distribution of garbage sacks never took place this year compared to

the excellent services performed by the municipality during last year's season.

Naiem Faisal Al Inzi said that he would go out "for entertainment on Fridays close to his house in Mishref and the municipality provided all required services, but campers were reckless and littered the area with garbage. However, he said that this year's camping season was better than before. However, he said that campers this year, contrary to all years before, preferred to camp in areas close to their residences which left the place overcrowded and hampered personal freedom — particularly for those fond of walking distances.

He added that camping in the years of yore was more fun as campers stayed the night in their tents, but now return home in the evening. He called on all campers to avoid littering, destroying plants and vegetation and to particularly ensure that all fires were put off before leaving the camp.



Bowling Tournament

Lufthansa entertained 24 travel agents with their 1990 Bowling Tournament at the Kuwait International Hotel. Three consecutive days of fun and competition was followed by an evening of surprises at the award giving dinner party. Winners were of course honoured and rewarded but the fact remained that everyone lea Burgen Bank was third in line. Aida Sheeba scored the highest among ladies and Ghanim Sukhin among the male competitors.

هكذا من الأهل

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

LET the people know the truth and the country is safe—
Abraham Lincoln, former US president (1809-1865).

OPINION

Lebanon needs a solution, now

ALL indications point to the fact that there are forces that do not wish to see the Lebanese crisis solved.

The question now is who is behind the disputes between the Lebanese leaders, including those with tendencies towards partitioning?

When Gen. Aoun's position becomes untenable, he simply gives the excuse that non-Lebanese troops are staying and this provides the pretext for the Israeli troops to remain in the South under the claim of fighting terrorism and protecting the Israeli-Lebanese borders.

Again when non-Lebanese forces remain in Lebanon, other Lebanese warring forces find opportunities for securing contracts to kill. Amid this scenario, parties backed by sectarian countries or those dreaming to secure a foothold in Lebanon find their opportunities like the Hezbollah which simply trade the Lebanese national security for a foreign country.

To compound the issue, there are forces both within and outside Lebanon that want to maintain the present situation. It looks that even the legitimate government fears a decisive settlement.

Now, if Gen. Aoun concedes authority—which he must do—is there any guarantee that no more Gen. Aouns will come on the scene to do whatever the present Aoun is doing?

What would be the next obstacle that could be created for the invading forces to remain in Lebanon, as it appears that its stay is benefiting, if not the state itself, the soldiers.

Now, what really prevents the legitimate government to settle the issue—if it is really capable of doing that. They have the Arab and international backing and it has every right to take necessary action to solve an internal problem.

It is time for a Lebanese decisive solution, otherwise Lebanon will remain the 15-year-old misery of the Arab world, added of course to its other misery, the Palestine question which has been there over the past 40 years.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Soviets head for change

MOSCOW, (Reuters): The Soviet Union appeared to be heading with increasing momentum this weekend towards dramatic political change that could take it down the revolutionary path which has already reshaped Eastern Europe.

A flood of hints, suggestions and leaks from officials in the Communist Party and the state apparatus over the past few days on how the country should meet the challenge of the modern world seemed to leave no doubt the train was on the move.

In the course of less than a week, two influential figures have publicly urged more powers for "reformer-leader" Mikhail Gorbachev to enable him to push through a radical programme against mounting conservative resistance.

Congress

Reform-minded rank-and-file communist groups from all over the country have called on the leadership to bring forward to this spring a party congress already billed as the one that will totally recast the structure of Soviet power.

And on Saturday a well-connected Soviet news service suggested that Gorbachev, in what would be the most significant departure of all, placed on Monday to propose an end to the party's 70-year monopoly of power.

The service, Radio Moscow's Interfax, said a draft platform to be presented by the Kremlin chief to a plenary session of the party's Central Committee would admit the possibility of a multi-party system and private property.

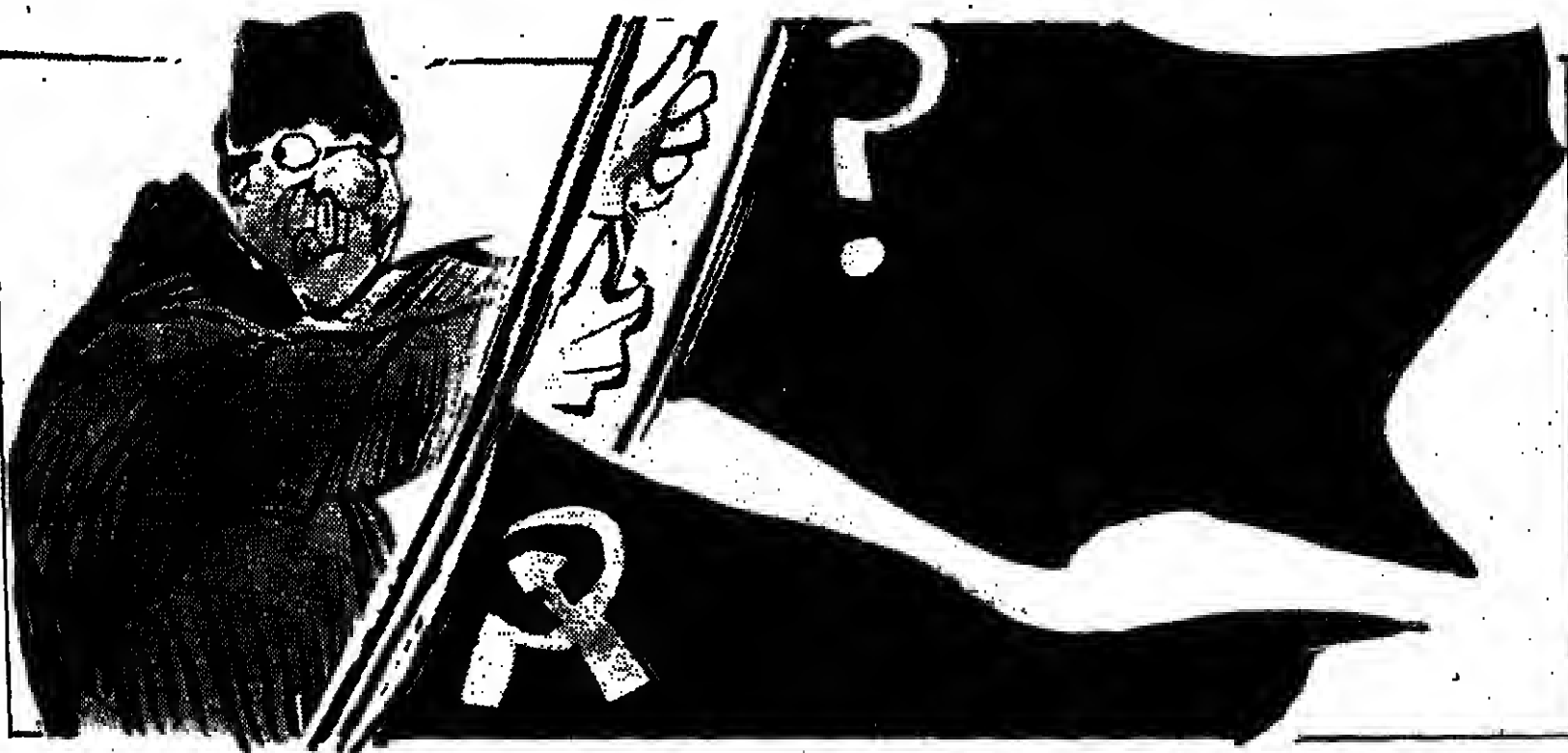
Even the official Tass news agency, which has sometimes served in the past as a conduit for conservative views, said the two-day plenum comes against the background of unprecedented "high political intensity."

The vital new element, commentator Alexander Minyev said, was that "the idea of radical political changes is coming from below, from primary party organisations and from rank-and-file party members who criticise the leading bodies of the party."

Foreign analysts said the power edifice likely to emerge under the authoritative if partial scenarios of the past few days would not in itself supplant the existing Soviet system.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1577 — Henry of Navarre is recognised as a head of Huguenot Party in France.
- 1701 — War of Spanish succession begins.
- 1626 — Peace of La Rochelle is signed between Huguenot rebels and French crown.
- 1715 — Peace of Utrecht ends war between Spain and Portugal.
- 1778 — Britain declares war on France.
- 1819 — East India Company, represented by Stamford Raffles, establishes settlement at Singapore.
- 1869 — Greece agrees to leave Crete following Turkish ultimatum.
- 1897 — Crete proclaims union with Greece.
- 1899 — Treaty of Paris is ratified, whereby Spain cedes Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines to the United States for \$20 million.
- 1902 — French agreement with Ethiopia to finance railway construction provokes protests from Britain and Italy.
- 1932 — Fascist coup in Memei, Lithuania.
- 1952 — England's King George VI dies, is succeeded by Elizabeth II.
- 1964 — England and France agree on constructing English Channel rail tunnel.
- 1975 — Three paintings — one by Raphael and two by Piero Della Francesca — are stolen from national gallery in Urbino, Italy.
- 1988 — Mobs of youths set fires and attack police station as ethnic rioting spreads through several neighbourhoods in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city.
- 1989 — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze says no settlement reached after talks with Pakistani officials on war in Afghanistan.



Letters to the editor

Kashmir in agony

SIR: There is a sad and strange paradox in the way most nations and people react to emerging new realities that confront them in ever-changing scenarios and fluid situations. No one seems to be reaching out to get a grip on realities; nations and their leaders always seem to be obsessively disposed towards changing political landscapes with emotional zealotry and a rigid quest for the prevalence of the status quo. This frame of mind and "modus operandi" has done more harm to humanity than any other single factor. The determination not to change in the face of changing realities has led many a nation and people to the brink of repeated human catastrophes.

Take, for example, how colonial powers reacted to native freedom movements in Asia, Africa and other parts of the globe. Invariably, the colonialist response was to inflict terror and destroy political movements for independence. And yet, the colonialists could not seize the process of self-rule forever; indeed, their (the colonialists) unwillingness to give in has led to a great many human calamities. Israel and white-ruled South Africa are still continuing the politics of colonialism and racism at a horrendous cost in terms of human sufferings. Still, unfortunately, the attitudinal change to accommodate political realities in a peaceful manner has not come. Consequently, the sufferings will continue; however the change will come at great human loss. There is no stopping it now; such is the fate of the earth. It simply reflects the logic of events and the understanding of the human desire to seek integrity.

When the East Pakistan crisis erupted in 1971, the response in West Pakistan was emotionally laden. Indeed, India played a major political and military role in the break-up of Pakistan. But the role of India was not the fundamental question, or should not have been the fundamental issue. The basic issue was that the common people in the then East Pakistan at the time considered the political situation contrary to their interests; whether their perceptions were right or wrong is not central to the argument at hand. The fact is that the Pakistani administration and the people in the western province reacted with less than appreciable understanding of the growing discontent of the eastern province's political concerns. Hence, a situation which clearly had viable political solutions turned into a major political crisis for Pakistan, giving India an opportunity to exploit the situation. The Pakistani administration in Islamabad was overly obsessed with the determination to pursue the status quo. The requirements of the new political realities at the time were to reject the status quo and espouse fresh political perspectives in a neutral and accommodating manner.

Kashmir is in agony now. Not because Pakistan supports the Kashmiri independence movement or a merger with Pakistan. Quite earnestly, Pakistan's support is not the fundamental issue here. At the nucleus of this political movement are the people of Kashmir who consider the present political situation contrary to their interests and perceive the Hindu domination as repressive and unacceptable. Consequently, the Kashmiris are rejecting the present political unity with India and are seeking self-determination.

The Indian reaction is to pursue the status quo at all costs. The Indian President, in a recent strongly-worded statement said, "We will, whatever the cost, ensure that Jammu and Kashmir remain an integral part of India." It seems that, given the absence of political efficacy, the human catastrophes and sufferings are about to be repeated in Kashmir, just the way these scenarios have been repeated endlessly in the past. However, the tragedy in Kashmir need not be repeated. For the newly-elected Indian prime minister, it is an opportune moment to preside over the future fate of India in a neutral political perspective targeted at saving humanity a tragic cataclysm and an armed conflict, and resolving the crisis in a political framework. An independent or autonomous Kashmir would not smear the face of Indian democracy in fact it would be a token of India's democratic vitality and commitment to resolving political conflicts in a political framework by responding to the crisis with mature democratic initiative and with appreciable respect for the legitimate demands of the people.

Such a scenario could not have been imagined or even conceived of under Rajiv Gandhi's leadership. Rajiv had to protect the cult of the Gandhi dynasty. Late Indira Gandhi would not have allowed any concessions to Kashmiri Muslims. But Prime Minister V. P. Singh has no dynasty to protect; he could be more profoundly in touch with the common aspirations of Kashmiri Muslims and prepare the majority Hindu masses in India to calmly realize that the demands for the secession of Kashmir are only an extension of a world-wide historical political process aimed at seeking autonomy for repressed minorities. Respecting Kashmiri demands would only be respecting the inevitable process of political change which has been denied to them for a long time. Prime Minister Singh must understand that future historians would judge him not with what he did not allow to happen, but what he let happen and how he facilitated the change of the status quo to an energetic vitality of a political process.

By the same token, the people of Pakistan must very carefully react to the events in Kashmir. They must demonstrate admirable political maturity and respond to the Kashmiri crisis in a constructive way. The Pakistani people must analyze all variables working in the Kashmiri political arena and fully comprehend the role of different political actors. For example, the present PP administration and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, as we all know, have had no role in the making of the present events in Kashmir. But if Kashmir were to separate from India, it could add to the stature of the People's Party government and to the personality cult of Benazir and her dynasty. Hence, the present administration in Pakistan may attempt to manipulate the crisis in Kashmir to its party's and for personal advantage; Pakistanis must make sure that they do not allow the government to drag the country into a military conflict with India for the above-mentioned reasons.

We must also be aware that there is a likelihood that the Pakistan armed forces may pressure for an intervention in Kashmir to restore their lost credibility in the East Pakistan debacle.

We must also be fully cognizant of the role of the opposition. Benazir's tactful diplomacy may be exploited by the opposition as concessions to India, and a weakness of her leadership. People in Pakistan must fully realize that they should not let their leaders make blunders at the cost of their country, property and lives. In the past, many leaders in this wonderful but unfortunate country have committed blunders for personal gains. This time around, Pakistan must not allow this to happen. Period.

We did not appreciate India's military adventurism in East Pakistan, and we should abstain from such a role in Kashmir—that is, in spite of the fact that the two situations are not identical. East Pakistan was an integral part of Pakistan, while Kashmir has been a disputed territory since independence. What Pakistan must do is to launch a full-scale global diplomatic effort to explain to all countries around the world the Kashmir point of view.

Kashmir is very close to its final destiny; Pakistan and all other countries must do everything possible for Kashmir to achieve its aspirations and self-determination at the minimum cost of human life, with the least possible anguish, and if possible, with no history of atrocities to be written. India, itself, could preside over writing this new chapter of a final tribute to human civility and generous political accommodation.

Dr Haider Mehdi
Shuwaikh campus
Kuwait University

Judge not

SIR: I'm writing in reply to recent comments by one Dr Haider Mehdi.

Every person has a right to their own opinions in matters as they see fit, and the "Letter to the Editor" column is a good way to be heard. But before a person does so, one should really be about their facts, this is especially true in regard to Islam, as this is such a sensitive matter and God has set forth His religion in the clearest terms, so that there should be no confusion in basic matters.

First of all, I would like to comment on Mehdi's letter about the value of Rajneesh's system of belief. In one paragraph Mehdi comments on how the beliefs and social system (free sex, etc.) are repugnant and disgusting to most people; and then in the next paragraph Mehdi says that Rajneesh never taught anything dangerous; that his system has some kind of value as a way to compare the values of the norm.

Without wanting to judge Mehdi, I would like to know how it is that things considered repugnant could be valuable, and also how Rajneesh's teachings could ever be considered anything but dangerous. Maybe Mehdi can explain why, towards the end of his career Rajneesh did a complete and total turnaround on his free-sex attitude, due to the widespread problem of AIDS among his followers, and "free-sex" became total celibacy.

In Islam we are taught that both of these attitudes are unhealthy and dangerous—that a middle of the road course is the best way. As far as Rajneesh's teachings and ideas being of value, I fail to see any value whatsoever in leading people astray and away farther and farther from God's true teachings, as if most people of today aren't far enough away from God as it is.

The second item that needs to be addressed are the more recent comments of Mehdi with regard to the Pakistani People's Club. From the outset, I must make it clear that I am not Pakistani, and basically know nothing about the PPC, and my comments have nothing to do with that organization's way or the other. Nor do I wish to get into the literary semantics that Mehdi has chosen to.

The matter I wish to discuss are the strange comments Mehdi made. It seems obvious that Mehdi has made two mistakes, the first in his Islamic knowledge, and the second in the way he seems to be judging the motives behind this organization's charitable goals and language.

I take it Mehdi is a Muslim, and as such should be considering himself a "servant" of God, as it is termed in the Holy Quran again and again. What does Mehdi propose? Perhaps he prefers "domestic helper" of God? I think it can easily be

seen how ridiculous this train of thought is becoming—and no amount of verbal games can change the fact that a servant still "serves" and obeys, and a "poor" person remains poor in spite of Mehdi's wish to make them "economically deprived." The common man has no need or use for such trivial pursuits in language.

Also, Islam has never forbidden charity in any form. Zakat is not charity, and has nothing to do with it. Zakat is mandatory and binding as a sort of "tax" (and I use that term loosely here) on one's wealth over and above what one's needs are, and is used to keep the "welfare state" running, in so many words.

Charity, on the other hand, is a voluntary donation of one's material wealth, time, or anything else. In Islam even a smile is considered a charity, and there is absolutely no shame in receiving charity in whatever form it may take. We must remember that this can be done in absolutely any way that one chooses, and nobody has the right to judge what is in the hearts of others. Only God can do that.

So, please, before we go and accuse people, and before we spout our opinions we should be very careful to know what we are talking about first, and we should never forget that we never have the right to judge, in any case, what is in the hearts of people, especially when they are trying to do what is considered good in the eyes of God.

Mia Pozzo,
Safat.

Appeal for funds

SIR: The Embassy of Pakistan has taken note of the letter published in your paper entitled "Appalling statement". We would like to categorically refute the implication in the letter that any appeal for funds for the poor in Pakistan was made with the approval of the Embassy. The Second Secretary (Consular Affairs) and the Community Welfare Attaché had a social party for the office holders of sixteen Pakistani associations in Kuwait. These associations cater to the needs of the community in the social, cultural and religious fields.

During the course of this party, Afzal Noor, acting in good faith, made a suggestion that if Pakistanis were to even contribute KD 1 per person it could help the poor in Pakistan. The Embassy of Pakistan is used to receiving a lot of advice from Pakistani citizens abroad. However, this does not mean that in every case it follows that advice.

We wish to make it clear that according to the rules of the government of Pakistan, no embassy can raise any funds from citizens abroad unless it is for a national cause approved by the federal government. Only on rare occasions is such a privilege exercised, as where there is a national disaster such as unprecedented floods or vast damage through an earthquake. Very rarely is a charitable cause identified by the government.

Although the embassy does not raise funds from its citizens, except when specifically authorized by the government, every Pakistani is free to make a charitable contribution directly to any deserving institution in Pakistan. This is his moral right and duty as a citizen. In fact, we would like to point out that, apart from conscientious Pakistanis, many Kuwaitis make charitable donations to Muslim charitable institutions in Pakistan. This is done on their own and in the spirit of Islam which embraces all Muslims.

As the embassy has neither made nor approved the proposal, we hope that the matter can rest. Unless the letter is motivated, there is no need for a controversy.

Syed Inbal Hussain,
Press & Cultural Attaché.

No choice

SIR: With reference to different letters which appeared in "Letter to the Editor" column regarding the fund collection of Indian Arts Circle (IAC), I am obliged to write the following facts.

I am a class teacher in the Indian school. When the circular was distributed about the competitions being held in the IAC, connected with the Nehru birth centenary, many of us objected to collecting money from the children in the class rooms. Even some of the heads of the sections were not in favour.

Nehru loved children very much. The children in return loved and respected "Chacha Nehru". His birthday is always celebrated as children's day in India. He used to distribute "red roses" to the children who gathered around him during such occasions. Here we were helpless when instructed to collect from children in the name of that great leader.

The reason for such pressure from the administration of school was obvious—the president of IAC and the chairman of Indian School happened to be one person. Most of us were helpless in such a situation.

A helpless teacher,
(Name and address supplied).

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Attack could hamper peace

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM. (Reuters): A bloody attack on Israeli tourists in Egypt could sabotage US efforts to convene Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo, analysts in both countries said.

Masked gunmen killed eight Israelis and two Egyptian security men and wounded 17 people in a grenade and machine-gun attack on a tourist bus east of the Egyptian capital on Sunday.

The most serious assault on Israelis in Egypt since 1985 plunged the Jewish state into mourning and seemed bound to trigger a right-wing backlash against attempts to make peace with the Palestinians.

Affect

Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, asked on Israel television how the attack would affect current peace moves, said: "It is impossible to advance a diplomatic process until we control and eradicate these centres of terror and violence."

A previously unknown Organisation for the Defence of the Oppressed in Egypt's prisons claimed responsibility, but Israeli security sources said the attack was more likely the work of radicals opposed to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's efforts to engage Israel in peace talks.

In Cairo, prominent Egyptian commentator Ahmed Beha Eddin told Reuters the ambush appeared intended to sabotage peace efforts and a Western diplomat said: "It seems to be aimed at killing what's left of the peace process stone dead."

The attack could hardly have come at a worse time for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as he faces a showdown with hardliners in the right-wing Likud Party opposed to his plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Vowed

Shamir vowed to take on and defeat the rebels, spearheaded by hawkish Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon, at a Likud central committee meeting on Wednesday. But opponents of peace talks with the Palestinians now have fresh ammunition.

"This disaster is bound to influence the Likud meeting," said Hanan Azran, Israel television's political correspondent.

Diplomatic sources said the foreign ministers of the United States, Israel and Egypt had been expected to meet next weekend in Europe to finalise arrangements for the first Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. That now seems a remote prospect.

Shamir's Likud opponents seized on the bus attack as proof that the Palestinians remained bent on murdering Jews.

"We can only see one thing—there is no change in the attitude of the PLO terrorist organisations. I believe these are PLO terrorists," Sharon told Reuters.

"This is an important lesson to the United States and free Western democracies that there can be no compromise with terrorism," he said.

Talks

Sharon said the attack was a further reason for not holding Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo.

Shamir condemned the attack as an act of wild anti-Israeli hatred but said there was no connection with the Likud meeting and no grounds to postpone the session.

However, political sources said it was possible the meeting would now be delayed.

Analysts in Cairo said the bus attack was also a blow to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, whose government faces a campaign of violence by Muslim fundamentalists.

Commentator Beha Eddin said it was the most damaging incident for Mubarak since the hijacking by Palestinian gunmen of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in 1985.

"This affair could be worse than the Achille Lauro... that was a foreign ship but this incident took place inside Egypt itself," he said.

Egyptian leaders moved quickly to limit the damage to sensitive relations with Israel. Mubarak telephoned Shamir to express shock and stress that everything must be done for peace.

Quote me

"I do not know how it can be done, but it seems to me one should find a more democratic and open way to reveal public opinion, perhaps through an all-European referendum with the participation of the USA and Canada. It is important that not only politicians but the people decide the fate of the future Europe. After all, as has more than once been the case in history, it is they who must pay for the mistakes of the politicians," — Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze on German unification.

"Burning in the heart of the peoples of Central America is a flame of hope and faith in that the Nicaraguan electoral process will live and finish its democratic path and that a genuinely democratic and pluralistic national government will spring forth from the ballot boxes." — Calles on the Nicaraguan elections.

"If this is not okay with the club president and with Italian critics I am ready to rescind the contract with Napoli and return to Argentina at the end of this season." — Maradona to reporters after deserting a training session.

"Who wants to go to Armenia? We've had a war in Beirut for 15 years so who would want to go there? What could we do for them? I trust no one. I'm taking my parents to the United States." — an Armenian youth.

"I look forward to winning. The rest is easy. When you're young, you take it for granted. Being out of the big matches for a long time helps me appreciate it." — Yannick Noah after qualifying for the Open series.

"I acknowledge a collective right but I abhor the principle of collective guilt." Vukobratovic in reference to the postwar period when ethnic Hungarians in Czechoslovakia did not have equal rights with Czechoslovaks.

"I do not deny that I planned sabotage. I did not plan it in a spirit of recklessness, nor because I have any love of violence. I planned it as a result of a calm and sober assessment of the political situation that had arisen after years of tyranny, exploitation and oppression of my people by whites." — Nelson Mandela at a trial in 1964.

"I don't know what is happening to us. It is a destructive war. Christians are killing each other. Four of my brothers are in Lebanese Forces and the other three are with the army... I am fighting my brothers. Yesterday I was fighting when I found out that I was shooting at my neighbour. We both stared at each other and silenced our guns. How can I shoot him. We live in the same building." — a Lebanese army man on the carnage in Beirut.

Tehran praises attack

(Continued from Page 2)

Jordanian capital, Amman. It said the Sunday night raid was part of "our ongoing battle with the Jews until victory is achieved."

The PFLP-GC radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said: "A group of our dear heroes... carried out the heroic Rafah operation..."

"I say to the Zionists in Palestine and everywhere, we will fight you, children, women and old men... an eye for an eye," said the statement, transmitted by Al Quds radio.

President George Bush telephoned Shamir today to offer his condolences over the "horrendous attack" a White House spokesman said.

"This horrible act of terrorism should be condemned by civilized people everywhere," spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

"This horrible act of terrorism is to be condemned by civilized people everywhere," the State Department said in a statement telephoned to reporters.

"This terrible incident is an obvious attempt by the enemies of peace to halt efforts at reconciliation and dialogue," it said.

The State Department said the US embassy had been in contact with Egyptian authorities.

Britain condemned the attack as a vicious attempt to sabotage chances for peace in the Middle East.

"We utterly condemn this obvious and vicious attempt to sabotage the peace process, which must continue," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

Iran praised the attack as an heroic act which could help Muslim fundamentalism in Palestine.

State-run Tehran Radio said the attack was significant for its timing, at the height of a US diplomatic initiative aimed at convening Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The Palestine Liberation Organization condemned the attack and said it showed the need for faster progress towards a peace settlement in the Middle East.

The PLO news agency Wafa said the attack could not be treated as an isolated incident.

"We must recall that hundreds of Palestinians in the occupied territories are being killed or wounded daily. This killing and terrorism is at the hands of Israeli officials, not at the hands of people so far unknown and who have no connection with the PLO," it said.

The executive committee, due to meet this afternoon, is certain to discuss the implications of the attack, PLO sources said.

"Palestinian nationalist leader Faisal al-Husseini told Reuters: 'We condemn this act, no matter who committed it.'"

Arab League Ambassador Hamadi Essid condemned the attack but said the crime must be judged in the context of a cycle of violence in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Keyhan said on Saturday the expulsions by Britain "betray its malicious nature" and followed protests by the European Parliament about Iran's alleged involvement in international terrorism.

The developments came in advance of the first anniversary of the Feb 14, 1989, death sentence on Rushdie by the late Ayatollah Khomeini for "The Satanic Verses."

Britain and its European partners condemned Khomeini's action and some withdrew their ambassadors from Tehran for a period.

Yesterday's Iranian comment came as London's Independent newspaper on Sunday published an essay by Rushdie, who has been in hiding since Khomeini's death sentence was pronounced.

He defended his controversial novel, but admitted that it may have offended some Muslims.

The state-owned Middle East News Agency said the warning came in protest messages to President George Bush and the United States and Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union. The messages were delivered to US and Soviet diplomatic envoys.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid sent a similar message to his Israeli counterpart Moshe Arens on Saturday, the agency said.

The three messages, the agency said, dealt with "the grave negative consequences" on the Middle East peace process and the region's security and stability that would result from permitting Soviet Jews to settle in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The agency said Mubarak is currently undertaking extensive consultations with Arab and world leaders on the subject.

The United Arab Emirates today voiced concern over the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel and said it would make Israel more obstinate over a Palestinian settlement.

Like neighbouring Kuwait a day earlier, it urged the Soviet Union to stop the flow in the name of the friendly ties that link Moscow to the Arab world.

Samerejian: 'martyr of the press'

BEIRUT, Feb 5, (AP) Veteran newspaper photographer George Samerejian was fatally wounded in the week-long fighting between rival Christian warlords.

He was among more than 150,000 people who have perished in Lebanon's nearly 15 years of civil war and the 12th pressman to be killed in the conflict.

But the 42-year-old Armenian Christian was remarkable because he was always where the action was hottest.

He had survived countless battles, two Israeli invasions and two kidnappings.

He was also one of the handful of Lebanese and foreign pressmen to have covered the carnage of the civil war since it began in April 1975.

A stray bullet fired by a fellow Christian hit him in the head last Wednesday as he covered street battles in East Beirut between rebel Gen. Michel Aoun's troops and the Lebanese Forces militia led by Samir Geagea.

Samerejian, who worked for Beirut's independent Al-Nahar daily, was rushed to hospital in a nearby Christian neighbourhood, but no surgeon could reach the hospital to operate on him because of the fierce house-to-house fighting.

The International Committee of the Red Cross got him across Beirut's dividing Green Line on Thursday to the American University Hospital in the western Muslim sector.

Surgeons removed the bullet that had shattered his brain. But he died on Saturday without regaining consciousness.

His journalist colleagues proclaimed him a "martyr of the press."

An Al-Nahar editor, Francois Akl, wrote of Samerejian: "Throughout his outstanding career, George was noted for his fearless determination to be on the scene regardless of the risks involved."

New Afghan plan to phase out Najib

Baker will offer deal to Soviets

NEW YORK, Feb 5, (Reuters) US Secretary of State James Baker plans to propose to the Soviets a plan that would allow Afghanistan President Najibullah to stay in power for a transitional period before having to step down, the New York Times reported today.

The Times, quoting Bush administration sources, said that Baker in talks in Moscow beginning on Wednesday would insist that the Soviets guarantee Najibullah's eventual departure.

But it said he plans to propose that the Afghan leader's departure be arranged through a gradual transfer of power in which Najibullah would remain in office in the early stages and then be phased out by the final stage.

The administration has up to now insisted that the Soviet-installed leader be removed as a condition to a negotiated settlement.

"Our strategic objective remains the same — self-determination for the Afghan people. What we are talking about here is a slightly new strategy," an administration official involved with Afghanistan policy was quoted as saying.

"For us to continue to insist on Najibullah leaving before anything can begin simply won't work anymore," the official said.

"I can't say we're highly optimistic that the Soviets will bite, but it's worth a try," he said.

Najibullah said today he hoped talks this week between the United States and the Soviet Union of Afghanistan would reach "a reasonable conclusion acceptable to all sides."

He told a news conference in Kabul he supported the "negative symmetry" of a halt in US-Soviet arms supplies to warring factions, provided it was comprehensive and included a ceasefire.

As Najibullah spoke in his office at the Gul-Khana palace an earth tremor shook the area for several seconds but did not disrupt the proceedings. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

Najibullah said negative symmetry should include not only the United States and Soviet Union but all other arms suppliers as well.

Najibullah said agreement on negative symmetry should be accompanied by a ceasefire, disarmament and demilitarisation of Afghanistan under United Nations supervision.

Najibullah repeated he would not step down from power before proposed elections in a post-war Afghanistan.

He said that at present secret peace negotiations were going on with factions representing 40,000 rebels. There was no independent confirmation of his claim.

Najibullah said he was confident negative symmetry would lead to peace in Afghanistan provided it addressed the conditions he laid down.

Meanwhile, a rocket fired by rebels hit a crowded part of the Afghan capital yesterday, killing a child and wounding 17 people, Kabul radio said.

The radio, monitored in Islamabad, said the weapon, fired from a Kabul suburb, was a US-supplied cluster rocket which scattered nearly 100 anti-personnel mines.

On Saturday, eight rockets hit residential areas of the city, wounding five people and causing damage, the official Bakhtar news agency said.

Kabul blamed "criminal extremists," the term it uses for mujahedeen fighting the Soviet-backed government.

It says the sophisticated missiles are supplied by the United States and Pakistan to the Afghan rebels to create "mass murder and wreck havoc and terror in the cities."

Hezbollah raids Israeli posts in S. Lebanon

NABATIYE, Feb 5, (AP) The fundamentalist Hezbollah said in a statement published by newspapers today it killed and wounded several Israeli soldiers over the weekend in raids in south Lebanon marking the 11th anniversary of Iran's Islamic republic.

The statement said pro-Iranian Hezbollah militiamen mounted attacks on Saturday against two Israeli posts in the villages of Bayyadah and Jisr El Hamra, inside Israel's self-proclaimed security zone.

The communiqué said the infiltrators damaged the posts and "inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy."

It said another commando unit ambushed an Israeli armoured patrol rushing reinforcements to the posts.

"The pitched fighting led to the destruction of an armoured personnel carrier and the death of its crew," the statement said.

It said the group launched another attack on an Israeli post in the village of Dihayeh yesterday.

The party admitted that it "lost several heroes in the operations... marking the anniversary of the Islamic republic in Iran."

The Hezbollah statement said Israel retaliated by bombing three villages outside the zone, including Nabatiye, on Saturday and yesterday.

Police said the Lebanese Red Cross yesterday evacuated the bodies of five Hezbollah fighters who were killed during the Israeli shelling of Nabatiye.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing rules, said the bodies were found next to the Nabatiye barracks, four miles (six kilometres) north of one of the crossings leading into the security zone at Kfar Tibnit.

The spokesman said the five were apparently headed into the zone on Saturday to team up with their comrades inside the zone.

Two physicians abducted: Gunmen burst into a home in the southern Sudan city of Malakal and kidnapped two European physicians of a Belgian medical mission who live there, a senior official of the relief agency Medicines Sans Frontiers said.

The official, who refused to let his name be used, said the gang also has abducted several Sudanese from Malakal, capital of Upper Nile region 420 miles (670 km) southwest of Khartoum. The motive for the seizures was not known.

Dr. The van Haege, 27, of Antwerp, Belgium, and Martin Ruppert, 29, of Rotterdam, Holland, were taken at 11 pm (1900 GMT) on Friday night, the spokesman said. With other relief workers, they were to have been evacuated the next day from Malakal, which is in the northern part of Sudan's civil war zone, (AP)

Famine relief in Tigray: Rebels in northern Ethiopia have asked to meet aid agencies to discuss a stalled famine relief mission into their stronghold province of Tigray, where starvation threatens some 800,000 people.

The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said in a letter to the World Council of Churches it wanted to meet representatives of Ethiopia's Joint Relief Partnership (JRP), a consortium of church aid groups, in Khartoum on Thursday to discuss the plan.

The proposed meeting will give an opportunity for the discussion of all means of enabling aid to reach the drought and famine affected areas," the February 2 letter said, (Reuters)

57 Aids death in Israel: It was reported late Sunday night that the deadly disease of acquired immune deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has killed fifty seven Israelis in the last ten years.

According to a broadcast by Israel Radio, 43 others are registered as AIDS patients and are doomed to die within few years.

The radio said medical authorities in Israel have lately noticed a "substantial decrease in numbers of Israelis taking the AIDS test." (Kuna)

13-year-old Arab burned by Israeli soldiers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 5, (Reuters): The Israeli Army said yesterday it would charge three soldiers who local media said were accused of beating a 13-year-old Palestinian and burning him with cigarettes.

An army spokesman declined to detail the charges beyond saying they involved a 13-year-old boy at the occupied West Bank. But he said military prosecutors would indict a junior officer, a sergeant and a private this week.

Israel Radio and the daily newspaper Davar said the three were accused of beating the boy and the private was alleged to have burned him with cigarettes.

The reports did not specify when and where the alleged offence occurred or under what circumstances.

The charges are the latest in a series of revelations about abuses by soldiers fighting the 26-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Last month a reserve commander was relieved of duty after charges he gathered Arab residents in a West Bank village, threw a percussion grenade at them and then shot dead a man who fled.

PLO central council to meet

TUNIS, Feb 5, (UPI) The PLO executive committee called for the central Palestinian council to meet this month to examine the Middle East peace process and accused Israel of hampering the process with the support of the United States.

The central Palestinian council, an intermediary body between the executive committee and the Palestine National Council, or Parliament in exile, should meet to "examine the peace process and developments in the situation" in the Middle East, the committee said in a communiqué late Saturday night following a meeting in the Tunisian capital.

The central Palestinian council last met this past October in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

In a second communiqué, the executive committee reaffirmed its will to "bring about" dialogue with Israel in the context of a preparatory process leading to an international conference.

The communiqué reiterated PLO insistence on its right "to choose and announce" the composition of the Palestinian delegation for any dialogue — a proposal adamantly opposed by Israel.

The communiqué announced that it had "begun to examine with the Soviet Union a series of practical measures" relative to the emigration of Jews from this country to Israel.

But it made no reference to claims that Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Gennadi Tarasov had agreed to Palestinian request that Moscow end direct flights to Israel for Soviet Jews and press for changes in US immigration regulations.

Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine leader Nayef Hawawreh told a news conference Saturday that Tarasov had promised PLO leaders "a halt to all direct emigration to Israel" from the Soviet Union and "the guarantee to emigrants to freely choose the destination they desire."

The communiqué said the PLO would "continue to examine with the Soviet Union a series of practical measures" relative to the emigration of Jews from this country to Israel.

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Bowl with Islamic verses

Palestinian artist Jamal Badran, 80, holds a bowl he has painted with Islamic verses from the Holy Quran, written in his favourite Kufi style of script. Born in Haifa, Badran drew designs for the reconstruction of the Salaheddin minbar destroyed by arson at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque in 1969. (Reuters wirephoto)

Call for BBC newsman's expulsion

Kayhan asks for tit-for-tat move

NICOSIA, Feb 5, (AP) Tehran Radio warned yesterday that Britain's expulsion of nine Iranians will worsen "the cold relations" between the two countries and a leading daily called for the tit-for-tat expulsion of the BBC's correspondent in Iran.

The British government announced Feb 1 it had ordered the nine Iranians, including the London bureau chief of Iran's state-run television network, to leave by Feb 9 for reasons of national security.

Iran had been expected to retaliate for the British move, the latest in a series of expulsions of Iranians over the last year. But so far authorities in Tehran have not taken any action.

Britain expelled 20 Iranians last year on security grounds.

Iran severed relations with Britain in February last year following publication of "The Satanic Verses" by Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie, which many Muslims charged blasphemed against Islam.

The state-run radio, said in a commentary that the British move, was "an irresponsible move, lacking in logic and wisdom."

It added that "Iran... considers it a factor contributing toward worsening the existing cold relations between the two countries" and noted it signals "a further deterioration of relations."

Tehran's mass-circulation Kayhan daily said Iran should retaliate for the expulsions by expelling the British Broadcasting Corp. reporter in Tehran.

It did not name the correspondent.

A BBC editor in London, who declined to be identified, told the Associated Press by telephone that the state-financed broadcasting system was perplexed by Kayhan's call.

"We have no staff correspondent in Iran at present," he said.

The daily's columnist, Omid Masoudi wrote that as long as Iranian reporters abroad "feel insecure because of factual reporting about what is happen-

ing in the West, there is no justification for the stay in Iran of the BBC reporter for spying and slanted reporting."

Keyhan said on Saturday the expulsions by Britain "betray its malicious nature" and followed protests by the European Parliament about Iran's alleged involvement in international terrorism.

The developments came in advance of the first anniversary of the Feb 14, 1989, death sentence on Rushdie by the late Ayatollah Khomeini for "The Satanic Verses."

Britain and its European partners condemned Khomeini's action and some withdrew their ambassadors from Tehran for a period.

Yesterday's Iranian comment came as London's Independent newspaper on Sunday published an essay by Rushdie, who has been in hiding since Khomeini's death sentence was pronounced.

He defended his controversial novel, but admitted that it may have offended some Muslims.

The state-owned Middle East News Agency said the warning came in protest messages to President George Bush and the United States and Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union. The messages were delivered to US and Soviet diplomatic envoys.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid sent a similar message to his Israeli counterpart Moshe Arens on Saturday, the agency said.

The three messages, the agency said, dealt with "the grave negative consequences" on the Middle East peace process and the region's security and stability that would result from permitting Soviet Jews to settle in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The agency said Mubarak is currently undertaking extensive consultations with Arab and world leaders on the subject.

The United Arab Emirates today voiced concern over the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel and said it would make Israel more obstinate over a Palestinian settlement.

Like neighbouring Kuwait a day earlier, it urged the Soviet Union to stop the flow in the name of the friendly ties that link Moscow to the Arab world.

57 Aids death in Israel: It was reported late Sunday night that the deadly disease of acquired immune deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has killed fifty seven Israelis in the last ten years.

According to a broadcast by Israel Radio, 43 others are registered as AIDS patients and are doomed to die within few years.

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13-year-old Arab burned by Israeli soldiers

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An army spokesman declined to detail the charges beyond saying they involved a 13-year-old boy at the occupied West Bank. But he said military prosecutors would indict a junior officer, a sergeant and a private this week.

Israel Radio and the daily newspaper Davar said the three were accused of beating the boy and the private was alleged to have burned him with cigarettes.

The reports did not specify when and where the alleged offence occurred or under what circumstances.

The charges are the latest in a series of revelations about abuses by soldiers fighting the 26-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.



Saaz aur Aawaz

Rhythm and melody combined to make the musical show by Saaz aur Aawaz yet another successful event. Well-known amateur singers Shah Nawaz Karim, Bader Siddiqui and others entertained the audience with their rendition of songs by Lata, Rafi, Hemant Kumar and Talat Mahmood. The old and new melodies revived nostalgic memories as the singers crooned popular numbers, appreciated by the audience. Pictures show Saaz aur Aawaz members with their patron, Dr Taraknath (seated, extreme right); left Karim and Sabina; right Bader Siddiqui singing a duet. (Pictures by Javid Basra)

French festival

THE French Cultural Centre, in Co-operation with the Kuwait Cine Club, will hold the first French Festival of this year from Feb 11 to 20. Some of the best known movies from France will be screened at the chambers of commerce and industry auditorium.

Films by Philippe De Broca, Andre Vayda, Rene Clair, Jean-Paul Rappeneau, Philippe Agostini and Sacha Guitry are among those selected for screening during the "Cinema and the French Revolution" festival.

The festival will open with *Rebels*, featuring Sophie Marceau and Philippe Noiret, on Saturday, Feb 10. Other films to be shown during the festival are *Danton* (Feb 11); *July 14* (Feb 12); *New World* (Feb 13); *Revered Dialogues* (Feb 17); *When Versailles Talks* (Feb 18); *Rebels* (Feb 19) and *1789* (Feb 20).

The French Cultural Centre, which has moved to its new premises early last month, has expanded its facilities. It is open to membership for a nominal fee. Facilities include a vast library with more than 10,000 French titles; lectures each month on topics ranging from economics to politics, a video library with a wide range of documentaries on news magazines and other facilities.

The French Cultural Centre also screens French movies each month. This month's feature is entitled "Le Lieu du Crime" (1986) featuring Catherine Deneuve and Victor Lanoux. The film screening is open to members only.

On Feb 26, they will hold a lecture on Impressions of Vietnam, by P. Burillon, who has spent several years in that country. It will be held at 5:30 pm. Open to members only.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Anshur

Batman

Sahayyah

Hall Booked

Al Hamra

Challenge of Ninja

Drive-in

Arabic film

Al Firdous

Bhai Ka Dushman Bhai

Fahad

Cyclone

Al Jahra

Daka-O-Darwish

Granada

Arabic film

Salaikhah

Spitz

Jleeh

Hoshiyar

Almadi Drive-in

Arabic film

PRAYERS

Fajr

Zohr

Asr

Maghreb

Isha

5.14 am

12.02 pm

3.08

5.30

6.49



Horse and carriage imported to Kuwait

THE horse and carriage considered to be one of the touristic features all around the world has gradually arrived in Kuwait. Children and adults are attracted to this transportation facility which is characterised by beautiful decorations.

A Kuwaiti youth imported a horse and a carriage from Egypt recently. He rented it out at the Oasis (an area which established by the Ahmadi governorate to serve desert campers).

The pictures show children enjoying a carriage ride and the Kuwaiti importer, Anwar Al Mwa'ina with the carriage.



KTV 1

MORNING

9.30 Opening and Holy Quran

9.40 Sabah Al Kher, oews

9.50 Cartoon serial

10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)

10.30 Ghoraba Fi Al Madeena: Arabic serial (part 9)

11.30 Sabah Al Kher, oews

11.45 Challenges: Foreign cultural programme (part 6)

12.20 News summary

12.30 Sabah Al Kher final

12.35 Holy Qurao and closedown

EVENING

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran

4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)

4.45 Saham Al Fadha: cartoon serial

5.15 The World of Tomorrow: cultural serial

5.45 Night chemists, air-lies and official advertisements

6.00 Al Fareso Al Aashiq: historical serial (part 16)

KTV 2

MORNING

6.45 Varieties

7.00 Our Children and the Future: local programme

8.00 Made in Kuwait: information programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ali Al Damkhi

8.30 Good evening and local news

9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Al Laaboo Fi Al Nar: Arabic serial (part 14)

10.45 Al Burkao: Weekly Arabic serial (part 8), starring Rasheed Asaf, Fadya Khatat and Waha Al Raheb

12.35 News summary

12.40 The World Today via Satellite

1.00 Holy Qurao and closedown

EVENING

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran

6.10 Diploos. A cartoon series for children

6.30 Dartmoor: "Winter". The harsh and severe

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WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Craft Centre

MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots oo weekends? Here's a chance for you to relax and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9 - 12 noon.

Seminar

The seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday

6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration

may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

SOCIAL

Konkani drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to

announce Menino De Bandar's

"Sousarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funasites) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy Josephine, Betty Alvarez, Tina, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Paiva and Menino de Bandar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Sharq) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi, present the Kuwait Folk Group in concert on 14th and 15th February, at 8 pm both nights. Tickets, can be ordered by phoning 3919759.

Videos of the recent very successful pantomime *Sinbad the Sailor*, can be picked up from the theatre on Sunday 4th February from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Sur Sangeet

SUR Sangeet presents Sitar Nawaz Ustad Walton Dass uita, at Al Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel at 6:30 pm on February 9. For more information tel. 5615291.

Punjabi Cultural Society

PUNJABI Cultural Society in Kuwait is celebrating the 117th birth anniversary of great Punjabi Poet Padam Bhushan Bhai Vir Singh on Feb 9, 1990 at 6:30 pm; at the Indian Embassy Auditorium. The ooted Punjabi writers, poets and singers will participate. Everybody is welcome.

Daniella Festeleab

Daniella celebrates "Festeleab" for Dances at Gazelle Club on Friday, Feb 16, at 1 pm. For reservations please call Marianne - Tel: 3710215 ext 29 or Wimmie - Tel: 5733382 before Feb 13.

Carnival Fiesta '90

YMCA/Incredible S.C. are proud to announce their Carnival Fiesta '90 at Messilah Beach Hotel (Habiba) on Feb 22, '90.

Non-stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the beat of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighbour."

Highlights: Best Carnival couple (fancy) and many many surprises. For details contact the organisers on Tel. 2450279 (between 8 am to 1 pm) or Tel. 3921712.

Kuwait Welsh Society

ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dance Thursday 1st March 1990. At Messilah Beach Hotel. For ticket reservations & more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

Valentine's Party

VALENTINE'S Party: Come join the fun. Feb 15 dinner buffet-Top Ranks band, door prizes, cupid's arrow awaiting! For more information call Nina on 5339623 or Kathy on 2523992 (between 6 and 8 pm).

ACT

ACT's production of Thornton Wilder's comedy "The Skin of Our Teeth" will be presented on February 27, 28 and March 1 at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets can be reserved by calling 5725071 or 5731782.

Kalpak's Drama Competition

KERALA Arts and Literature Promotion Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is conducting a Malayalam One Act Play Competition at Indian Arts Circle on 9th February 1990.

Hobby centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making - For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

British Council

THE ITALIAN JOB: Saturday, 10 and Sunday, 11 February 6:30 pm, 130 min.

The title is Italian but the case is most definitely British. Michael Caine and Noel Coward star in this fast, entertaining comedy caper. With wild chases galore, the job culminates with the robbers in their mini cars using the piazza, arcades and roof tops to make their getaway causing the world's biggest traffic jam.

STUDYING, COMPUTING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE IN BRITAIN

Whether you want a short course, a 2-year diploma, a BSc, or a PhD - we have the information you need. Come and visit the Education Office on Monday, 12 February or Tuesday, 13 February and access our computerised database! Our staff will be there to assist you and help find a course to suit you.

Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the 11 Annual One Act Play Competition to be held in May 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funasites. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Singapore festival

SAS Kuwait Hotel will feature Singapore Festival on 21st and 22nd February at the tent. The oriental extravaganza will present lion dancers, Chinese dancers, finger painter plus elaborate buffet of popular Singaporean recipes prepared by Singaporean chefs. First of its kind in Kuwait, the show was put up in co-ordination with Singapore tourist promotion board and Singapore Airlines and aims to foster closer relations between the two countries. Tickets available at SAS Hotel front office, Tel. No. 5657000.

Like a Hurricane!

SEVENTH Sky's Rock Concert at Al Andalus Cinema on 15th & 16th Feb '90. Featuring Rock, Pop/Rock and Rock 'n' Roll from the 80's. For information and reservation call 5730265/2543219.

At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre

SWIMMING lessons available all year round with qualified swimming instructors. Open to non-members. Mon-Tues-Wed 3:30 to 5:30. Beginners-improvers-adults mixed keep fit classes. Wed 5-6 Thurs 6-7. Fri 12-1:00 and 1-2:00. Sat 5-6:00. Ladies keep fit, Mon 5-6. Tues 5-6, Fri 5-6 and Sun 5:30-6:30. Martial arts w/black belt instructor Moo-Wed 6. Taekwondo Sat-Mon, 7-8 Thurs 5-6. Bowling alley available for private company and community tournaments. Five squash courts. Squash handicap every Sunday start 6 pm - all standards, open to non-members. Squash coaching available from professional coach everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women; gym facilities for men and women; tennis courts - coaching available. Plus lots more. Phone for further details - Recreation Manager, 4742000 ext 6788 Julie Dent or 6700 recreation.

SPORTS

Coaching classes

COACHING classes for new recruits, who desire to qualify as football referees, conducted by the Indian Football Referees Association, Kuwait (IFRA), will commence from Friday, February 23, 1990. Interested candidates may contact D'Souza, Tel: 2402631-2, or Anthony Fernandes, Tel: 2445729/2431674 or any members of the committee at the Sour Ground in person for any further information.

Qualified members of any Indian states referees associations and/or of Asian/European referees associations are welcome to join the association as members.

Tivim Centre

TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers - 24410461 and 4765070.

7-a-side football

VARCA Sporting Centre will organise its 7th annual one day 7-a-side football festival on February 25 at Sour Grounds to mark the Kuwait National Day. The draw will be held on Friday, February 23 at 10 am. For further details and entry forms please contact VSC members or Tel. 5331940 or 2410461 and 4765070.

At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre

SWIMMING lessons available all year round with qualified swimming instructors. Open to non-members. Mon-Tues-Wed 3:30 to 5:30. Beginners-improvers-adults mixed keep fit classes. Wed 5-6 Thurs 6-7. Fri 12-1:00 and 1-2:00. Sat 5-6:00. Ladies keep fit, Mon 5-6. Tues 5-6, Fri 5-6 and Sun 5:30-6:30. Martial arts w/black belt instructor Moo-Wed 6. Taekwondo Sat-Mon, 7-8 Thurs 5-6. Bowling alley available for private company and community tournaments. Five squash courts. Squash handicap every Sunday start 6 pm - all standards, open to non-members. Squash coaching available from professional coach everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women; gym facilities for men and women; tennis courts - coaching available. Plus lots more. Phone for further details - Recreation Manager, 4742000 ext 6788 Julie Dent or 6700 recreation.



New general manager at Movenpick

J.E.M. Kerkhofs took over as the new general manager of Movenpick. Prior to this he was the food and beverage manager of this restaurant. He has 31 1/2 years experience with Movenpick hotels in Germany, holding various management positions.

Kerkhofs is of Dutch origin and is one of the youngest general managers in the Movenpick chain of hotels and restaurants.

Picture shows (L-R) Anton Good, V.P. Movenpick Hotels International, Nasser Al Khalid, representative of the Kuwaiti owning company, Y. Gharam, out-going G.M. of Movenpick and J.E.M. Kerkhofs, new G.M. of Movenpick Kuwait. Photos by: Saeed Zalar

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Dollar closes lower

LONDON, Feb 5, (UPI): The dollar closed lower against the major European currencies today. Gold was sharply higher as markets anticipated the release of Nelson Mandela from prison in South Africa.

The dollar closed lower in Frankfurt at 1.6755 German marks against Friday's close at 1.6870, and also was lower in Zurich at 1.4840 Swiss francs against 1.4995, in Paris at 5.6970 French francs against 5.7130, in Brussels at 35.015 Belgian francs against 35.24, and in Milan at 1.24625 lire against 1.249.80.

In London, the pound closed higher at \$1.6955 against \$1.6815 at Friday's close.

Dealers said the US unit was undermined by disappointing US corporate figures and predictions that the Dow Jones industrial average is heading for a fall in the near future.

In Zurich, gold closed more than \$5 higher at \$423.50 per ounce against \$418.50 at Friday's close, and also was higher in London at \$423.25 per ounce against \$417.75 per ounce.

Following gold's strong surge, silver closed higher in Zurich at \$5.40 per ounce against \$5.30 per ounce, and also was higher in London at \$5.37 per ounce against \$5.29 per ounce.

The productivity of American workers increased at a modest 0.9 per cent last year, the most since 1982, the government said today.

Increased productivity, or getting each worker to produce more for each hour he or she works, is crucial to economic growth without inflation, especially given the current squeeze in the labour market. It also is considered a key to America's competitiveness with other economic powers.

For the October-through-December quarter, non-farm productivity rose a barely perceptible 0.2 per cent, the Labour Department said. Productivity rose 2.0 per cent overall in 1988.

Output in the non-farm sector was up 3.3 per cent and average hours worked climbed 2.4 per cent, again the smallest gains posted in those areas since 1987, the Department's Bureau of Labour Statistics reported.

Manufacturers reported a 2.8 per cent productivity gain in 1989, close to the 2.7 per cent gain of 1988. Manufacturing output rose 3.7 per cent last year, down from the 6.1 per cent increase of 1988.

Meanwhile, unit labour costs, a key determinant of future price inflation, shot up 6.7 per cent for the quarter and 4.6 per cent for the year. Those costs, which reflect changes in both compensation as well as changes in productivity, rose by 2.7 per cent in 1988.

Oman to raise crude output

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Feb 5, (AP): Oman's minister of petroleum and minerals said his country plans to raise oil production to 700,000 barrels a day this year, the Middle East Economic Survey reported Monday.

The minister, said Bin Ahmed Al-Shanfari, told the weekly newsletter's editor Ian Seymour that the 60,000-barrel increase over 1989 levels will come from the smaller oil fields in Oman.

The country has 25 to 30 small fields that have not yet been developed and the policy is to bring on stream progressively those that are easiest and least costly to develop.

Al-Shanfari also expressed considerable satisfaction at recent changes in market conditions that pushed crude oil prices up into the target range of \$18 a barrel set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the Cyprus-based newsletter said.

Oman is not a member of Opec but co-ordinates its policies with the world oil organisation.

Move to diversify banking services

Commercial Bank opens new brokerage department

THE chairman of the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Hamad A.A. Al-Hamad and the board of directors hosted a reception yesterday in connection with the opening of the bank's new international brokerage department.

The new international brokerage department provides a full range of brokerage services in futures, options, foreign exchange, bullion, stocks and other securities.

The objective of this new department is to diversify the banking services of the bank to cater to clients' needs in Kuwait and to provide them with a quality service. The service offers clients the facility to participate in international financial markets and to hedge their financial risks on the international futures and options exchanges.

The manager of the department, Mohammed Al-Hamad, has long years of experience in brokerage services and the department's staff are well qualified and experienced in the field of brokerage and customer services.

The department is located on the 4th floor of the Kuwait Stock Exchange building. The office is open to clients from 9 am to 12.00 midnight Monday through Friday. This will give clients the opportunity to watch the prices on the international financial markets closely, even outside normal Kuwaiti banking hours.

The Commercial Bank of

Kuwait was established in 1960 and since this time has achieved remarkable growth and recognition both locally and internationally. In the case of the former, the bank has undergone continuous expansion, and in 1989 opened its 36th branch in Riyadh. Throughout the bank network, computers are used which enable a comprehensive range of services to be provided with speed and efficiency.

In 1988, the bank became a member of the Swift group forming a link with renowned world financial centres and banks, via a highly sophisticated and unified computer network. This system enables all bank branches to process transactions directly with international correspondent banks, rather than via the head office. In addition, the bank has enhanced its ATM service which facilitates money withdrawals and inter-account fund transfers, 24 hours a day.

A particularly innovative new service offered by the Commercial Bank is the Phone Link which enables customers direct access to their accounts via the telephone line. Cashlink is another exciting service, and links customers to the bank's mainframe computer system through personal computers installed at their offices and connected via dial-up telephone lines. By using Cashlink, customers can avail up to 15 services, such



Hamad Al-Hamad pictured cutting the ribbon during the opening of new brokerage department.

as funds transfer, L/C application, salary payments etc. with security measures built-in.

The latest state-of-the-art finance technology is also used in the bank's dealing room where a Reuters Foreign Exchange System has been installed to provide dealers with the very latest information from the world of finance. Clearly, this has substantial impact on their ability to make speedy and accurate decisions.

The bank also issues credit cards to customers which may be used for local and international purchases. The advantages include protection against cash loss and the world-wide acceptance and security of Visa. Also, a new Auto Bank Plus card has been locally introduced which

offers three services: loans, Visa card facilities and all ATM services.

Internationally, Commercial Bank has established two full service branches in the USA: in New York and Washington DC. These provide comprehensive financial and banking services, in addition to L/Cs, financing of commercial projects, performance and tender guarantees, foreign exchange and money market operations.

The bank has also established a financial company in the USA, under the name of "CBK American Finance Ltd." for its effective participation in the US and European money markets. Furthermore, the bank has founded a financial institution called "Tijari Finance Ltd." in the United Kingdom, in addition to

its existing European Representative Office in London which specifically caters to Kuwaiti and European customers.

In keeping with its expansion policy, Commercial Bank has established the "Banktiji" Off-shore Fund and the "Margin Account" for foreign exchange operations and bullion. This investment operation is targeted towards large investors who may diversify their funds while increasing revenues via a competent department.

According to the bank's official reports, the product is a facility that allows you to buy and sell currencies and bullion (gold and silver) in a simple and flexible manner.

It also provides a system whereby if you wish to deal in foreign currencies and bullion

markets, you will have to deposit a 10 per cent cash margin with the Commercial Bank of Kuwait to enter into such transactions. You can then buy or sell foreign currencies and/or bullion with a maximum value of 10 times of the deposit.

The minimum margin deposit is \$100,000 giving you a trading line of \$1,000,000.

You do not have to physically pay or receive the currencies and/or metals that you sold or bought because the bank will credit your purchase and will debit your sales in your Margin Account.

Daily interest is paid on the margin and all credit balances while it is charged an all debt balances.

All foreign currencies and bullion held in your account will be revalued daily in relation to

the USS at current spot rates of exchange.

Advantages
■ This facility enables you to take advantage of the movements in foreign currency and bullion prices, and react quickly to market opportunities.
■ By placing funds in the margin account you can trade in amounts of up to 10 times of the initial margin.
■ You can avoid the inconvenience of transferring funds.
■ You earn interest on the initial margin and all of your long currency position.
■ You have up-to-date reports available from the bank to monitor your profits.
■ You will not pay any charges or commissions or fees, but you will get competitive dealing prices.

Move to finance oil fields

Baghdad invites overseas firms

BAGHDAD, Feb 5, (Reuters): Iraq is to invite foreign companies to finance the development of new oil fields in exchange for secure oil supplies and stable prices, a senior oil official said today.

Oil ministry undersecretary Sami Sharif told Reuters the door was now open to major oil firms to take part in projects to develop Iraq's vast oil reserves, put officially at about 100 billion barrels.

He said Iraq had three criteria for foreign participation, which ended in 1973 when Iraq nationalised the last remaining foreign oil company operating there.

In exchange for long-term oil supplies and stable prices, foreign partners would ensure

projects involved no additional cost for Iraq and would accept repayment in oil from the fields they develop. The percentage of production which the foreign partner can lift would depend on the size of the field and the investment involved.

"In the light of Iraq's huge reserves and the impact of the Gulf war on our economy, a high (degree of) flexibility is needed," said Sharif, who was recently appointed to chair a committee revising oil policies.

He said a review was necessary due to the extent of new oil discoveries, which would be second only to Saudi Arabia's if confirmed, and the impact of the Gulf war on the country's economy. Sharif was responding to

Reuters' questions about press reports outside Iraq that it had reversed its long-standing policies which rejected production-sharing agreements with foreign companies.

The reports attributed the switch in Iraq's policy to a severe cash shortage since the August 1988 ceasefire in its war with Iran.

Sharif said Iraq will supply its new partners "with a certain share and for long terms to satisfy the security of supply and stability of prices."

Opec secretary-general Suharto said recently the group needed \$60 billion to spend on expanding capacity from the present 26 to 27 million barrels a

day to 32 million by the end of the decade to meet rising world demand.

In another development, the leaders of the four Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries will meet in Amman on Feb 24, a Jordanian official said today.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh will join King Hussein for the two-day summit, the fourth since the ACC was founded a year ago.

The official said the rotating presidency of the ACC would pass from President Hussein to King Hussein for a year.

Investment continues to soar

Japanese move to adjust exchange rates

By Lima Al-Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

FORECAST of world and Japanese economy was the last lecture of the three-day investment and banking seminar, held during the Japan Week 1990 in Kuwait from Feb 2-6.

The General Manager of Economic Research Division of the Bank of Tokyo, Keiichi Honda, in his lecture gave a summary of the 1980s economy, including exchange rate movement.

He also spoke about the exchange rate development of different currencies such as the US dollar, yen and deutsche mark.

He added that the US dollar remained strong against the yen throughout fiscal 1989 to average about ¥140 per dollar for several reasons:

■ The US economy has been on a favourable softlanding course and the imbalance in trade and



Keiichi Honda

current accounts, as well as the federal budget deficit had shown some improvement. The ratio of those deficits to GNP has become smaller.

■ The difference in real interest rates between Japan and the US has continued to reflect the tight

monetary policies in the US since 1988.

■ Japanese portfolio investment to US continued to increase, attracted by income gain from interest differential and the widespread expectation of the strong dollar.

■ Political events instability in Eastern Europe and China. In fiscal 1990, factors which supported the dollar will change as real interest differential between the dollar and yen will decrease.

He said that efforts will be made to adjust exchange rates among major industrialised countries.

Honda, held his position as a member of directors and the General Manager of the Economic Research Division at the Bank of Tokyo since 1987.

He was also assigned to Union Bank in California as senior Vice-President in charge of Planning and Corporate Finance in 1982 both in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

'Monetary indiscipline is the greatest failure'

E. Europe set for hyperinflation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 5, (Reuters): Mountains of local currencies printed to pay for development are driving Eastern Europe towards levels of hyperinflation that could threaten democratic reforms, say leading economists who met in Jerusalem recently.

Yugoslavia is already in the upper reaches, gripped last year by an inflation rate of 2,500 per cent. Poland appears next in line with 740 per cent inflation last year and an estimated 70 per cent rise in prices last month alone.

Western experts say the Soviet Union could also be on the same path, with huge amounts of rubles in public hands chasing almost no goods in the shops.

"Monetary indiscipline is the greatest failure of the Eastern European system," said Professor Mario Nuti, an adviser to European Commission President Jacques Delors on the East European economies.

Experts and policy-makers attending a conference on economic stabilisation said a surge in inflation was inevitable as East European countries unravelled their state-controlled economies.

Some warned that hyperinflation of the proportions

that hit Germany in the 1920s could jeopardise democratic reform.

"Political restructuring in Eastern Europe will be hampered unless they get control of inflation," World Bank Vice-President Stanley Fischer said.

In the Soviet Union and most East European countries, key prices had remained virtually unchanged for decades and were totally artificial.

The conference, organised by the Bank of Israel and the Inter-American Development Bank, took place on Jan 31 and Feb 1.

Most experts agreed the central problem was that communist governments had accumulated huge deficits and printed money to finance them, while incurring far greater hard currency debts abroad than could be serviced by export earnings.

While Czechoslovakia and East Germany were regarded as having a solid enough industrial base to support their debt, the value of Polish debt had slumped to below 18 cents in the dollar on the secondary market, Nuti said.

Debt restructuring plan approved

TEL AVIV, Feb 5, (Reuters): Koor Industries' Israeli creditor banks have ratified a debt restructuring plan and are waiting for foreign creditors to approve it too, local and foreign banking officials said today.

But the officials said the plan to write off more than a quarter of Koor's billion dollar debt still faced some hurdles.

"The foreign banks were pleased by the prompt and positive answer, but the negotiations are not finished yet," an official from Bank Hapoalim, Koor's largest Israeli creditor, said after informing the foreign banks of the ratification.

Under the deal reached on Friday, the Israeli banks will

write off around \$200 million of Koor's debt, higher than a previously announced write-off of \$180 million.

The Hapoalim official confirmed the Israeli banks agreed during the negotiations to cancel more debt. The Hapoalim trade federation-owned Koor owes local banks \$800 million.

The foreign banks would write off \$77 million of the \$205 million owed them and would be paid a further \$87 million of their exposure by the local banks.

The foreign banks would also reschedule \$41 million over five years at five per cent interest. The Israeli banks pledged to find suitable guarantees for the rescheduled debt.

Oapec urged to upgrade research plan

KUWAIT, Feb 5, (Kuna): A specialised bulletin today urged Arab oil-producing countries to expand and upgrade their petroleum research and development programmes to retain their comparative edge and protect against any possible change to energy consumption brought by technological breakthroughs to tap new energy sources or stem consumption growth by advanced countries.

The Kuwait-based organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Oapec) bulletin, for the month of February, also suggested that the organisation could play a co-ordinating role in Arab research and development projects related to petroleum, along similar lines to those followed by the Eureka programme, co-ordinating research in 19 European states.

The monthly bulletin, reviewing efforts of industrial countries to cut their energy bill and to tap new energy sources, ruled out any technological breakthrough in the 1990s either in supply or demand to cause significant change in energy consumption.

But it cautioned that even minor breakthroughs would have a cumulative impact and indicated that some believe the industrial countries would make energy savings of up to 60 per cent this decade.

Pipeline rust repairs to cost hundreds of millions

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Feb 5, (Reuters): Hundreds of millions of dollars will have to be spent repairing rust on the trans-Alaska pipeline, raising the price of oil from Alaska's north slope, the company that runs the line said today.

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., the seven-member oil consortium which operates the 800-mile (1,285-km) line from the Arctic Ocean to the port of Valdez, said replacing just one 8.9-mile (14-km) stretch of pipe would cost up to \$200 million.

Spokesman George Jurkovich said the cost of repairs to the line, whose owners include British Petroleum and Exxon Corp, would raise the cost of north slope oil but he

could not say by how much.

"It will raise the cost of operating Alyeska, which is reflected in the general cost of north slope oil," Jurkovich told Reuters.

He said he would not confirm or deny a report in the Los Angeles Times on Sunday that the five-year bill for repairing corrosion on the 13-year-old line, which transports a quarter of US-produced crude, could total \$1.5 billion.

"We don't think it will run that high. That sounds like a very outside number to me. We have not yet been able to cost it out entirely," he said. Jurkovich said the company would be reassessing the damage further this spring.

Late last year, the oil firms which are the

pipeline's main owners filed for regulatory approval for new 1990 tariffs that raised by 86 cents to \$3.89 a barrel the charge for transporting oil through the line. The increase included provisions for rust repair.

Alyeska blamed poor rust-proofing tape and other coating for failing to protect the steel pipe. But the Alaska government has launched its own probe to see if poor maintenance is partly to blame for the widespread rust and for the reduction in state royalties it will cause.

The Times report said that the federal pipeline safety office is investigating possible violations of safety regulations in installation, repair, maintenance and operations of the pipeline.

OBITUARY



In loving memory of
FELIX DIAS

Born: 7-3-1906
Died: 4-2-1990
in Bangalore.

Beloved husband of Effie,
father of Jeanette & Charles
D'Souza, Roy & Fern Dias
grandfather of Neena and
Leela; Anita, Venita and
Warren.

INDULGE IN A LUXURIOUS BEAUTY ESCAPE WITH

صالون الجميل السيدات

AL-MIRWAD BEAUTY SALOON
AT AL-SURRAH COOPERATIVE SOCIETY



Treat your skin to the luxury it deserves.
Relax and enjoy a personalised skincare treatment, in the privacy of
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BEAUTY SALON

at Surrah Cooperative Society. From a precise analysis of your skin's needs, we'll treat you to deep cleansing, refining and a gentle facial massage. Experience the benefits of our advanced skincare expert with the exclusive most modern skincare device.

And, luxuriate in refreshed, newly radiant looks.

Book your appointment on 5332861 or 5332183,4,5
WORKING HOURS
The salon is open 7 days a week
From 9:00 am — 8:00 pm.

World Bank approves loan for Uganda

KAMPALA, Feb 5, (Reuters): The World Bank has approved a \$125 million soft loan to aid Uganda's economic recovery, sources close to the Finance Ministry here said today.

They said the credit was approved last Thursday, in addition to a co-financing package worth \$60 million to which foreign governments would contribute.

Co-financing schemes that are currently under way cover programmes in agriculture, education, energy, health, transport and water supply, as well as macro-economic reforms.

The World Bank loan will be extended through its soft-aid arm, the International Development Agency (IDA), and is repayable over 40 years with 10 years grace. It carries a service fee of 0.75 per cent, but no interest charge.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have played a leading role in efforts to assist the government of President Yoweri Museveni to reconstruct the war-torn economy it inherited when it came to power in 1986.

A World Bank-sponsored meeting of foreign donors in December pledged \$637 million of new aid for Uganda, including 265 million from the World Bank.

This followed a three-year credit arrangement with the IMF last April worth 179 million Special Drawing Rights (\$237 million) under its enhanced structural adjustment facility, set up to help very poor countries.

The IMF loan supports a three-year government programme of reforms and development aimed at maintaining economic growth of at least five per cent a year.

This would permit a two per cent annual growth in per capita income.

Museveni said last month the economy grew an estimated 6.1 per cent in 1989, down from 7.2 per cent the year before, but more than double the rate achieved in his first year of power.

Accord is satisfactory, says Salinas

Mexico, banks sign debt reduction pact

MEXICO CITY, Feb 5, (UPI): The Mexican government and representatives of private foreign banks yesterday signed a landmark debt accord that will reduce Mexico's medium-term commercial foreign debt by \$7 billion and save the country \$1.6 billion a year in interest payments.

The debt reduction agreement, assembled under the plan drawn up by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, was signed at the National Palace, at a highly publicised ceremony attended by Brady himself, International Monetary Fund director Michel Camdessus, four US Congressmen, and representatives of several American, Japanese and European banks.

Citibank president John Reed, chairman of the Creditors Bank committee that negotiated the accord, and

presidents of virtually all the 15 banks represented on the committee attended the ceremony.

Banks that did not participate in the signing will sign the document in New York on Wednesday.

"The accord is satisfactory," said Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. "The renegotiation of debt is significant for Mexico."

Salinas, who assumed office in December of 1988, had stopped short of declaring a moratorium on Mexico's foreign debt in his inaugural address, saying that "the interests of Mexicans come before those of (foreign) creditors. The priority now will be not to pay, but to return to growth."

The Mexican debt accord, the first major agreement under the Brady plan, reduces Mexico's \$48.5 billion medium-term commercial debt by \$7

billion, saves the country about \$1.6 billion in annual interest payments and brings in some \$1.5 billion in annual new loans during 1990-92.

Under the accord, annual principal payments of \$2.15 billion over the period 1990-94 have been deferred to 30 years, and annual net external transfers are reduced by about \$4 billion on average between 1990 and 1994.

The historic debt reduction package, negotiated with the 15-member bank advisory committee that represents about 450 foreign commercial banks, consists in restructuring Mexico's \$48.5 billion medium-term commercial debt under three options: first, debt reduction of 35 per cent; secondly, interest rate reduction to a fixed rate of 6.25 per cent; and finally, new loans equivalent to 25 per cent of outstanding credits.

Of Mexico's \$48.5 billion medium-term commercial debt, \$20 billion has been restructured under the first option, \$22.5 billion under the second and \$6 billion under the third option. Mexican Finance Minister Pedro Aspe said that Mexico's total foreign debt will be about \$93.59 billion in March of this year. Mexico is the developing world's second largest debtor nation after Brazil's estimated \$115 billion.

Under the first option, banks exchange existing debt for new bonds at a 35 per cent reduction. The special funds from the World Bank (\$2.06 billion), the IMF (\$1.64 billion), the government of Japan (\$2.05 billion), plus a direct commitment by Mexico (\$1.3 billion), which total about \$7 billion, will be destined to guarantee the payment of the principal of the new bonds as well as 18 months of interest,

thus improving the credit quality of the bonds.

With a part of these funds, Mexico will purchase zero coupon bonds from US Treasury, as well as from other countries, that will constitute an asset of Mexico and which, reinvested at a rate of 7.925 per cent per year for 30 years, will grow to an amount sufficient to fully cover the principal payments on the new bonds at the end of the period.

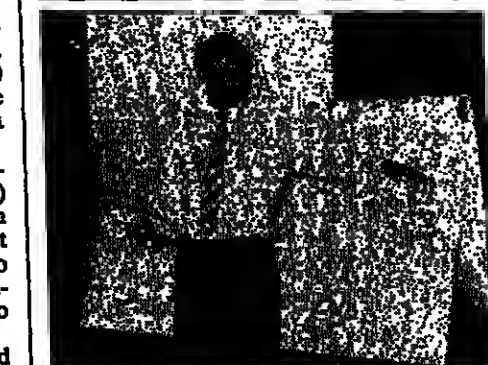
Aspe said that as a result of the latest accord with commercial banks and other deals reached earlier with multi-lateral financial institutions, the net transfer of resources on servicing the foreign debt will decline from about 6 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) during 1983-88 to 2 per cent during 1989-94. Mexico's GDP for 1989 is expected to be about \$200 billion.

Aspe said that in March of this year, Mexico's total foreign debt would be equivalent to 40 per cent of the GDP compared with 60 per cent in 1987 and 57 per cent in 1988.

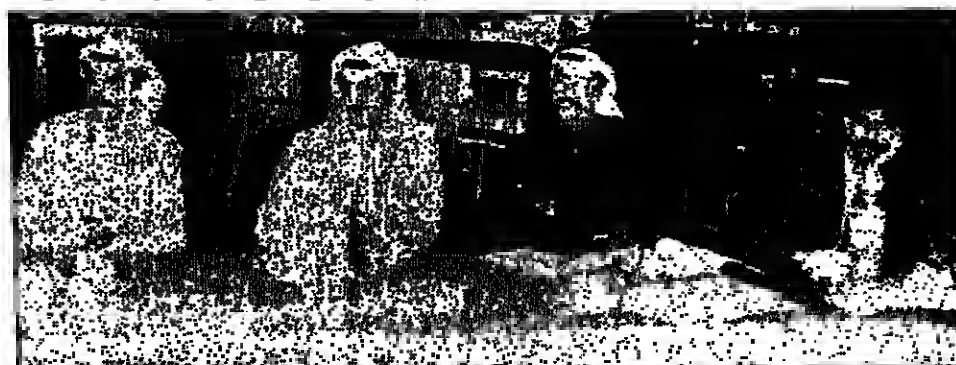
Although the debt accord has fallen short of initial expectations, Brady, Mexican officials and representatives of commercial banks lauded the new accord.

"The signing of Mexico's agreement with its commercial bank creditors is an important step forward," Brady said. "Significant additional benefits for Mexican people will emerge in the years ahead."

He said the Philippines and Costa Rica have made significant progress in renegotiating their foreign debt and that negotiations between commercial banks and Venezuela are currently underway.



John Coulter, vice-president of J.P. Morgan Bank addresses the conference.



Some of those who attended the conference.

Forex club seminar

THE KUWAIT FOREX ASSOCIATION and Kuwait Int'l Investment Co. in association with Morgan Bank had organised a two-day seminar on off balance sheet instrument for foreign exchange dealers in banks and financial institutions yesterday at Meridien Hotel.

The seminar was attended by 25 dealers. Financial futures, forward rate agreement and interest rate swaps were discussed. Tareq Al Ateeqi welcomed the audience.

Pakistan pins hopes on overseas investment

Equity investment as sound way of cutting debt

ISLAMABAD, Feb 5, (Reuters): Pakistan is having considerable success with its policy of attracting foreign investment through a liberal business climate, the chief economic adviser to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto says.

"It takes a little time but I think that it is paying dividends," Vaseem Aoo Jafary said in a weekend interview. "We have reached the stage where there is a lot of interest in investing in Pakistan."

Bhutto's 14-month-old government sees foreign equity investment as a sound way of cutting Pakistan's external debt of around \$18 billion, which was built up to fund persistent budget and trade deficits.

"We are hopeful of getting foreign investment as a way of reducing

indebtedness and promoting trade," said Jafary, who has ministerial rank. "Our model is going to be Thailand rather than India."

Pakistan's giant neighbour India has maintained a much tighter grip on the type and extent of foreign investment, though it too has liberalised its rules in recent years.

Foreigners accounted for about 53 per cent of the \$9.1 billion (\$4.3 billion) in projects approved by Pakistan in the 13 months to December, according to the Investment Promotion Bureau.

Pakistan bans foreign investment in a few areas like real estate, and licences investment in others such as banking. But most industrial sectors are largely unrestricted and foreign firms can own up to 100 per cent of

Pakistani subsidiaries.

The local economy, strongly dependent on sales of primary and semi-processed commodities, is vulnerable to world price changes and must attract much more industry, Jafary said.

But increasing lawlessness in the southern province of Sind, where 40 per cent of industry is located, is a powerful disincentive. More than half of new investment is now going to more peaceful Punjab.

Jafary said he was under no illusions that Pakistan would see an economic miracle overnight. The main thrust of economic policy is to cut the deficits and institute reforms under a framework laid down by the International Monetary Fund.

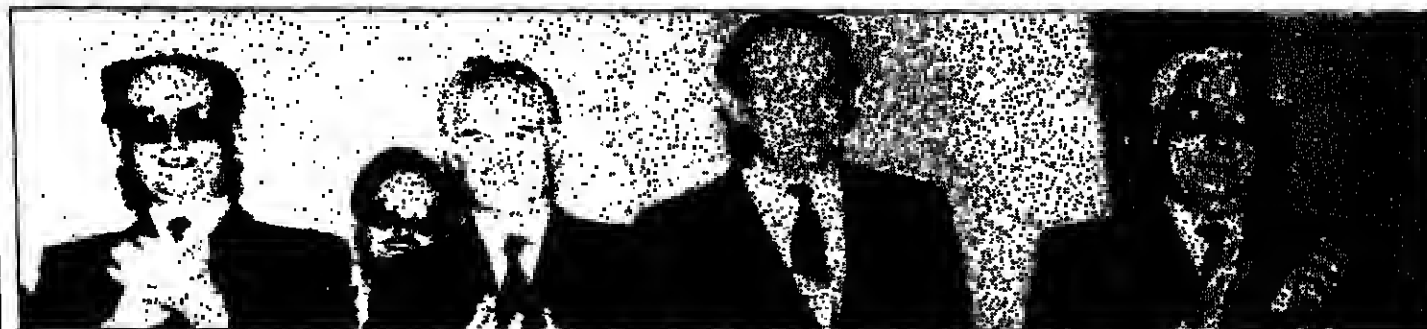
Pakistan went to the IMF for aid in

1988 and agreed on a three-year economic reform programme in return for \$877 million in loans. Bhutto's government endorsed the programme when she took power in December 1988.

But Luis de Azcarate, the World Bank's top official in Pakistan, said the IMF approved the first year's progress in December. "Overall the fund found that they had done fairly well," he said.

Economists say reducing the budget deficit is the key to Pakistan's medium-term problems, but in the long-term the biggest threat is its ballooning population.

The population, now 110 million, is set to double by 2010 and triple by 2025 if each woman continues to have six babies.



Central European leaders applaud at the start of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. From left are, Polish president Wojciech Jaruzelski, East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow, Czechoslovakian Prime Minister Marian Calfa, and Andrei Lukonov, Bulgarian president designate. (Reuters wirephoto)

Differ on how to tackle the issue

Experts agree on greenhouse effect

DAVOS, Switzerland, Feb 5, (Reuters): Global warming will be the key scientific problem facing the world of the 1990s but experts are divided on how to tackle the issue.

Proposals aired at the World Economic Forum in the Swiss mountain resort of Davos ranged from higher energy prices to better conservation measures and more nuclear power.

"The survival of the planet is at stake," said Heinrich Ursprung, chairman of the board of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. "Solving the greenhouse effect is the

top item on the world agenda now and in the years and the decades to come."

Participants at the forum of world business and financial leaders said the priority was to cut emissions of gases like carbon dioxide, which contribute to the "greenhouse effect" by trapping the sun's heat. But their solutions differed widely.

Some said higher fuel prices were the way to encourage conservation. Others countered that more expensive fuels could slow economic growth in developing nations. Nuclear energy was seen by some as a

way out.

"If we are serious about limiting carbon dioxide emissions, we cannot afford to do without an expanding use of nuclear power in our energy mix," said Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Authority in Vienna.

Blix said an extra 40 or 60 power stations built between now and the year 2000 would enable the nuclear power industry to cover 25 per cent of the world's electricity needs, up from 17 per cent at present.

Suggestions that the world could reduce carbon dioxide emissions

through conservation and the use of renewable energy resources were simply dreams, he added.

Gordon Goodman of Sweden's Stockholm Environment Institute said a 20 per cent reduction in world carbon dioxide emissions could be achieved by switching from coal to cleaner fossil fuels like natural gas. Conservation was also important.

"We must galvanise countries into energy saving," he said. "With a combination of solar and other renewable resources, linked with efficiency, we could go a long way to solve the problem."

'Sales tax must go' Kaifu's fate, sales tax linked

TOKYO, Feb 5, (Reuters): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is pinning his hopes in this month's Japanese election on winning support for a controversial sales tax his party has been trying for a decade to impose on an unwilling public.

The long road is strewn with casualties, and Kaifu must guard not only against political enemies but also powerful rivals within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) if he is to leave his bones by the wayside.

The LDP first mooted the tax in 1979, but it was a full 10 years, and several disgraced prime ministers later, before the measure went into effect last spring.

Its implementation, at a time when the opposition was already riding high over LDP involvement in a string of scandals, proved a key factor in dragging the party to defeat in upper house elections in July.

Polls showed the LDP, in total control of parliament for most of the post-war years, lost due to public anger over the tax together with the recruit "shares for favours" scandal.

Judging by an unprecedented television debate on Friday, the tax will again beat the heart of campaigning for the February 18 lower house election.

Leaders of the four main opposition parties, with conservative Japan Socialist Party leader Takako Doi leading the charge, ripped into Kaifu over the LDP's refusal to repeal the tax.

"The LDP has lied about the sales tax... it told the public several years ago it was not going to introduce such a measure," Doi said during the television debate.

Polls have consistently shown voter resentment at what was seen as an LDP effort to increase the taxpayer's burden.

The ruling party has argued with little success that the three per cent tax, imposed on all goods and services, is a

stable source of revenue needed to reduce the budget deficit, cope with higher welfare spending for an increasingly elderly population, and avoid hikes in already steep income tax rates.

Opposition spokesmen dispute the government's projections, and say a sales tax is not the best way to meet the increased budgetary demand.

The average voter disliked the measure on a much less theoretical level — apart from fuelling inflation, the tax also meant an end to round-figure prices on the shelves. It hugely complicated traders' book-keeping and infuriated consumers, particularly women, who resent the need to carry purses full of tiny one-yen coins worth less than one US cent to pay for any purchase.

Since the LDP first tried to introduce it in 1979, the tax has proved a curse to successive prime ministers, including Kaifu's predecessors Norihiro Takeshita, Yasuhiro Nakasone and Masayoshi Ohira all suffered serious setbacks and major drops in popularity when they pushed the tax.

Takeshita, last of the three, finally pushed the tax through parliament, but the ramrod tactics he used helped grease the skids for his own departure from office.

The LDP is a classic Japanese failure to take proper measures for the aged, who could form the majority of a future society, might eventually mean a loss of many votes.

But the question now is whether that long-term strategy will bring an immediate election disaster to the LDP. Opposition parties are adamant the sales tax must go, arguing it puts an unfair burden on people with low income and sets a precedent for unchecked tax increases.

The LDP itself has already backed away a bit in an effort to revive its popularity. It recommended last December an exemption for the sales of food at retail levels.

Birth of German economic superpower awaited

BONN, Feb 5, (Reuters): Europeans face the imminent prospect of a new economic superpower in their midst as East and West German politicians press home the case for economic and currency union ahead of the reunification.

"It is a matter of urgency that we should at once begin discussions on economic and currency union," West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher told reporters in East Berlin yesterday.

The flood of about 2,000 East Germans a day to the West — 38,000 in January alone — is undermining East Germany's economy and forcing politicians to try to improve living standards to stop the rot.

"Help must come immediately, or even more people will leave," Genscher said.

Lothar de Maiziere, chairman of East Germany's Christian Democratic Union, was quoted in the latest edition of the news magazine Der Spiegel as saying: "The situation is so unstable that a collapse cannot be excluded."

Economic union would give West German industry, Europe's most powerful, access to East Germany's pool of skilled workers and a golden opportunity to meet demand for Western goods and modernise a dilapidated industrial base.

West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel has raised the possibility of introducing the West German mark as currency in East Germany as soon as a free market economy is introduced.

Rebuilding East Germany's industry, Eastern Europe's most advanced but obsolete by Western standards, will need huge capital investment by West Germany.

The payoff is likely to be a second German economic miracle in East Germany and a continued economic boom in West Germany.

"If East Germany really wants economic and monetary union after its elections (on March 18), it will give the economy a jolt like the one we had after World War Two," Waigel said in an interview published yesterday.

Short-dated KD deposit rates steady

KUWAIT, Feb 5, (Reuters): Short dated rates were well traded in Kuwait's dinar deposit market while long dated dealing was quiet, dealers said.

Overnight and tomorrow-next rates were 8-8 1/4 while spot-next and one week were unchanged from Sunday's 8-5/8 3/8. One to three months was also set at 8-5/8 3/8.

"The long dated market was quiet, all the action today was in the short dated," one dealer said.

Six months and one year were set at 8-5/8 1/2 from Sunday's 8-7/16 11/16. The Central Bank adjusted its dinar exchange rate to 0.29030/40 to the dollar from Sunday's 0.29060/70.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal inter-bank deposit rates were steady to easier in a fairly active market today, dealers said.

They said mainly short-dated, one and two month maturities were traded and adequate liquidity remained in the system.

Spot-next, value date Wednesday, was seen around 7-3/8, 6-7/8 per cent and one week around 7-5/8, 1/4.

Stock shares

Nikkei stock average: 37631.41 (-18.74)		Mitsubishi Corp		1800	
Volume: 400 mil sh		Mitsubishi Estate		2340	
Yen exchange rate: 145.51		Mitsubishi H I		1110	
		Mitsui B R E		2720	
Names of stock		Cl	Ca	Mitsui Corp	1930
Advantest Corp	5550	-100	Mochida Ph	4290	0
Ajinomoto	-2770	-20	Mori Soki Co	4260	-30
Alps Electric	2030	-10	NEC Corp	2010	-10
Amada	1980	+10	Nikon Corp	1630	0
Analog Chess Ind	1190	0	Nippon Shin Co	1620	+20
Asahi Glass	2230	+30	Nippon Steel Corp	707	+4
C. Ichio Co	1130	-10	Nippon Yusen	2410	-10
Canon Inc	1810	-10	Nisanku Corp	1620	+30
Casio Comp	1580	0	Nomura Sec	3230	0
Dai Nippon Printing	2380	0	Okuma Mach	1700	-60
Daiichi Sanyaku	2930	+10	Orward K Co	2340	+50
Dainippon Ph	2920	+10	Orix Corp	6540	0
Daishinku Corp	2120	+10	Pioneer Elec Co	5730	-40
Daikin	2180	-20	Renown Look Inc	2430	0
Fanuc Ltd	8060	+40	Sanyo Elec Co	975	-1
Fuji Photo	4390	+40	Secom Co., Ltd.	6450	+180
Fujitsu Ltd	1560	-10	Shimizu Chem	1770	0
Hinachi Credit	1900	-40	Shimizu Eng	1410	0
Hinachi Koki	2080	0	Sony Corp	8200	-20
Hinachi Ltd	1560	0	Sunimoto Elec Ind	1670	-20
Hinachi Metal	1660	+30	Sunimoto Metal Ind	798	+4
Honda Motor	1800	-10	Takata Chemical	2340	-10
Ito Yokado Co	4480	+90	TDK Corp	6100	-20
Kajima Corp	2120	-20	Tokio Marine & Fire	2930	0
Kawasaki H I	1020	-20	Tokyo Elec Power	5780	+90
Kobe Cast Iron	1370	-10	Tokyo Electric Ind	3790	+10
Kokusai Elec	1180	-10	Toshiba Corp	2220	-30
Konami Ltd	1250	0	Toshiba Ind Inc	971	+1
Kyocera Corp	6460	+20	Toysota Motor	1180	-10
Masumi	3350	0	Toyota Motor	2480	-10
Matsushita Ind	1390	-10	Yamaha Motor	1240	0
Maz Electric	2280	-10	Yamaha Motor	1240	0
Mazda M C	975	-4	Yamaha Motor	1240	0
			Provided by Nomura Invest		
			Banking (Nikkei), Bahrain		

PERSONNEL

A leading superstore chain based in Muscat, requires following personnel:

1. Administrative Officer (Wholesale)

- Should be fully conversant with maintaining an efficient office routine: typing, filing, records keeping, shipping schedules, etc.
- Capable of interacting with customers & sales representatives, receiving & processing orders.
- Preferred age group: 25-30 years with a minimum experience of 5 years in similar line.

2. Sales Representative (Wholesale)

- Should be experienced, dynamic & motivated target achiever in Food/Non-Food products in agency lines.
- Knowledge of sales & marketing preferably aided by training & familiar with performance reporting.
- Valid Gulf Driving Licence essential & knowledge of Arabic preferred.
- Preferred age group: 25-30 years with a minimum experience of 5 years in similar line.

Please apply within 10 days to: The Manager P&A

P.O. Box 5636 Ruwi, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

giving full details of age, qualification, experience, salaries drawn, past full particulars, along with references, telephone numbers and two recent passport size photographs.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Feb 5, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.	
Currency	Rate
US dollar	0.29005
Sterling	0.48900
DM	0.17250
Sw. Fr.	0.19480
F. Fr.	0.03082
Italian	0.002324
Jap. yen	0.001985
Bah. din.	0.7691
UAE Dir.	0.07893
S. riyal	0.07728
Q. riyal	0.07861
O. riyal	0.7528

Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Feb 5, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates at local interbank transactions as reported by participants in Central Bank of Kuwait today.	
Period	Rate
1 month	8-3/8
3 months	8-3/8
6 months	8-7/16
1 year	8-11/16

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee		0.017220
Sri Lankan rupee		0.007350
Pakistan rupee		0.013650
Bangladesh taka		0.008940
US dollar		0.291100
Pound sterling		0.493250
UAE dirham		0.079220
Deutsche mark		0.173700
Japanese yen		0.002007

Families battle over blue jean fortune

LOS ANGELES, Feb 5, (AP): The feuding of two families over millions in profits from one of the nation's hottest blue jean

Couple records history of blues

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island, (UPI) Sam and Ann Charters set out in the 1950s to capture the blues of the rural south, and found a black culture locked inside a cage of bigotry and poverty.

"Blues faces: 1950-1987," the couple's photographic record of black blues artists, opened this month as part of Brown University's celebration of black history month.

The Charters spent nearly two decades searching for older blues musicians of the rural south and their young disciples in Chicago and other northern cities, documenting the many artists who dominated the black record market of the 1920s and 1930s, only to sink into obscurity in post-war America.

"The only record we'll have on the black culture prior to World War II is going to be the blues. It's all we've got," Sam Charters says.

In 1950, he traveled to New Orleans in search of the roots of jazz. When he got there, the jazzmen told him to talk to blues musicians in the upper Mississippi River Delta. Charters began recording their music and their lives.

"I stepped into the African-American community and these musicians became my mentors," he said. "This culture might as well have come from another planet for a middle-class, white kid like me."

Sam has made a career of studying, writing about, and producing various forms of folk and popular music. Ann, an associate dean at Brown University, met him in 1954 and traveled through the south until 1967, tracking down the blues artists by word of mouth.

Sam recorded the music and oral history of these musicians while his wife photographed them.

"Most of the 1950s was spent in broken-down cars and in rundown motels looking in every part of the south for these artists who had created the blues," Sam said.

The photographs in the exhibit show the honesty, pride and pain of black culture in the United States. There is a depth and meaning not found in the glossy, posed photographs of today's music stars.

"I tried to get the sincerity and spirit of their lives," Ann said. "Whenever possible I tried to include in the picture some kind of clue to the lives of these musicians."

Most portraits are candid shots, taken while the musicians were playing at home or in a club. Each gives a clue to the time and culture in which the artist lived.

Legendary Chicago pianist Otis Spann is seated at his piano in a 1967 black and white photo. His hands, are slightly blurred and his eyes look away from the camera and into the distance, as if he is thinking about something painful.

Atop his piano, slightly out of focus, sit an ashtray filled with cigarette butts and a half-empty mug of beer. Those two clues reveal the time and culture that Ann Charters spoke of depicting: A southside Chicago bar, where blues music was a staple.

It was impossible to photograph the artists without including the realities of the time, Ann said, noting that she and her husband traveled the south at the height of the civil rights movement.

"It was all political. Everything we did was an attempt to bring political change. We had this whole culture that had been ignored and shut out by white America," Sam said.

A 1962 portrait of Furry Lewis at Memphis home shows him playing his guitar, the instrument cradled in his arms. His gray hair and dark, furrowed face show his age and character.

Lewis was a blues recording artist of the 1920s. When the Charters found him in 1962, he was a Memphis street sweeper. He welcomed the Charters because he realized it was his only chance to document his life and his craft. He told them his neighbors did not believe he once was a respected bluesman.

Poverty and racism are the backdrop to many of the photos, which also speak about the triumph of the blues artists. Many of the older artists went on to become stars in the 1960s when blues music enjoyed a revival.

When the Charters photographed Sleepy John Estes in 1962, he was living with his retarded wife and their children in a rundown wooden shack in Brownsville, Texas.

The photos show his hands folded in his lap with his right arm draped over his worn guitar.



Tammy saved by a miracle

Bright new future

By Frances Hubbard

TAMMY HILL is a bright, lively 11-year-old who loves Kylie Minogue, records and plans to be a nurse when she grows up. But until 13 months ago she was doomed to die early.

Tammy suffers from a rare and deadly disease that weakens the heart muscle, known as aortic stenosis. The result is a killer heart attack which usually strikes before the 25th birthday.

But a revolutionary medical technique has given Tammy hope for a bright new future. An amazing machine does the work that her body cannot, by skimming off the cholesterol that would have blocked her arteries.

Tammy is the first child in Britain to be saved by this miraculous technology. She goes to hospital twice a month for her two-hour treatments. There, her blood is "cleaned" by being pumped through a complicated system of filters.

Her mother, Ethel, told me: "We're more grateful than words can say that Tammy's been chosen to use this wonderful machine. She's very lucky. She's been given the chance to lead a full adult life, instead of having it snatched away from her."

But the machine, which costs nearly £17,000 a year for each patient, needs some help to keep the cholesterol count down. Tammy has to follow rigid instructions on what she can, and cannot, eat.

Luxuries such as cakes, crisps and chocolate are all strictly limited. And naughty-but-nice cream is saved for special occasions.

Most 11-year-olds take munching on a burger and french fries for granted. But Tammy can only enjoy her favourite food, chips, on high days and holidays... and then, only if they are cooked in sunflower oil.

The whole family has changed to low-fat rations since Tammy's illness was diagnosed — and they say that they feel better for it.

I met them at their home in Accrington, Lancashire. Tammy looked pale and thin but she was brimming with energy as she played with her seven-year-old sister Jacqueline.

Tammy's stepfather of nine years, Jack Clark, told me: "We've all changed our eating habits a great deal since she was given a low cholesterol diet to follow."

"Heavy fried breakfasts are right out the window and we're chomping through more fresh fruit and vegetables, with lots of salad..."

"I can't say I'm any slimmer now, but I do feel healthier on it. Though the cat and I both hate the taste of skimmed milk."

"All the same, if Tammy really deserved a treat, we'd give in and let her have the odd cake or biscuit. There's no point in making her feel deprived or miserable."

Putting a protective arm around Tammy's shoulder, her mother Ethel remembered how they discovered that Tammy had the disease of hyper-cholesterolaemia.

She said: "We noticed that Tammy was coming home from school on certain days looking white as a sheet and ready to flake out. We worked out that this was on the days when she had physical education lessons."

"Our doctor referred her to the hospital, where they found that she had a heart murmur that needed an operation to patch up. It was while she was actually lying on the operating table that they realised she had way above average cholesterol levels for a child of her age."

Jack added: "You could say it was providential, because if it were not for the heart problem we'd never have spotted the disease."

"Tammy didn't really look unwell, so there was nothing obvious to go on. But she would have had a lot of problems when she reached 20 or so. Without treatment, she would probably have died from a major heart attack."

Jack is optimistic about Tammy's prospects, despite recent setbacks. He said: "There was a marked improvement in her condition after the heart operation."

"The heart specialists now say that there's a slight blockage of the arteries again. They're going to investigate, anyway. We have great faith in them, though, and we trust them with Tammy's health."

Hypercholesterolaemia is a hereditary disease, which is passed on to children through a rare combination of genes from their mother and father.

Tammy's mum, suffers from a mild form of high cholesterol. She has angina, which means that the blood flow to her heart is restricted.

Movement is painful for her and she's been forced to give up work as a school canteen lady until she feels better.

Tammy's sisters Pat, aged 18, Jacqueline, and her brother Derek, aged 16, have all been tested for the deadly disease. But they were given the all-clear by doctors.

Tammy will have to keep having her treatment for the rest of her life, unless a new wonder-drug to remove cholesterol is discovered.

Jack and Ethel shrug aside the inconvenience of the 100-mile trips to Liverpool twice a month. Jack said: "After all, it's only two days out of 30, and that's not much of a price for keeping Tammy well."

"I think she enjoys seeing the doctors and nurses at the hospital. She tells us that they're fantastic. And she's made friends with other children there."

"She's very brave about having those high needles stuck into her. She hardly makes a murmur. I'm sure I'd make more fuss myself."

Velazquez masterpieces on show in Madrid museum

MADRID, (Reuter): Almost all surviving works of Diego Velazquez, Spain's greatest "golden century" master, are finally on show together at what the Prado Museum's director calls the most important event in its history.

Art experts say 90 paintings definitely by Velazquez have survived. Thanks to rare loans from galleries and private collectors throughout Europe and the United States, the Madrid museum has assembled 79 of them.

Spain's Banco Hispano Americano, which is sponsoring the exhibition, says it has spent 40 billion pesetas (\$367 million) just on insuring the paintings.

Works lent by foreign galleries arrived surrounded by a level of security that Prado officials say is "usually reserved for heads of state."

Prado director Alfredo Perez Sanchez said the exhibition, opened by King Juan Carlos last month and running until

March 30, was the most important event in the museum's history.

"We sought to show a total, entirely pure Velazquez, beyond suspicion," Perez Sanchez told a recent news conference.

Although the core of the exhibition comes from the Prado's extensive Velazquez collection, many foreign galleries and collectors have pitched in, lending some of their most treasured possessions.

They include works representative of all the styles tackled by the 17th century artist throughout his creative life — portraits, genre paintings, religious and mythological pictures.

London's national gallery lent its Venus del Espejo, Velazquez' only portrayal of a nude. Experts say the painting, known as the Rokeby Venus, is unlikely ever to be lent again.

The painting's eroticism so provoked pioneer feminist Mary Richardson as it

hung in the national gallery in 1913 that she defaced it.

While it's in Madrid, Prado officials are being more careful: the day of its arrival — kept secret for security reasons — the Venus was met at the airport by an armoured van with helicopter escort.

New York's metropolitan, which last year held its own, smaller Velazquez show to which the Prado contributed 17 paintings, sent two major portraits including the celebrated picture of Velazquez mixed-race servant: "Juan de Pareja."

Sanchez Perez said he first recognised the possibility of holding a major Velazquez show when the Met approached him, asking for a loan.

He realised that he would be able to ask the Met to reciprocate by lending its celebrated "Juan de Pareja," and by persuading other galleries to contribute to an unprecedented exhibition of Spain's golden century master.

Irish and Scottish museums have contributed early works, not a strong point of the Prado's own collection. The "Old Woman Cooking Eggs" from the Edinburgh National Gallery is one such picture from Velazquez' days as an apprentice in Seville, when he was born in 1599.

Portraits, many of them of Velazquez' life-long patron, Spanish King Philip IV, and of his family, punctuate the tour through the Prado's majestic rooms, hung with beige brocade.

Velazquez, who became the king's painter soon after he moved to Madrid at the age of 24, was seldom to leave Philip's court, acting in various official capacities which were rewarded with the kingdom's highest distinction, the Order of Santiago.

Because of that royal connection, the Prado's show is more than the most comprehensive display ever of his works, said the museum's director of Spanish paintings, Juan Miguel Serrera.

I'll stop leaning of Pisa Tower

Cost only £500,000, claims Watkins

THE legendary leaning Tower of Pisa could be just a pile of rubble in a year's time, according to British inventor Cecil Watkins... unless they put his plan into operation.

Each year, Italy's most famous tourist attraction leans over one vital centimetre more. An 81-year-old Watkins, a professor of engineering, claims the ancient monument will soon collapse if the Italians don't act immediately.

He says: "It's now or never! The tower is like a car racing downhill without any brakes."

No-one has been able to come up with a solution to save the tower... until now. For Cecil believes his answer is quite simple.

He wants to spike the base of the tower with a massive metal girder, supported by extra foundations. These would be built on either side of the building.

The girders, slightly off-centre, would take the strain off the original foundations and prevent the tower from leaning further until it falls over.

Cecil explains: "It's a bit like spearing a turkey for roasting on a spit. Of course, the last thing the Italians want is to straighten the tower. My word, who would travel all that way just to see an ordinary, upright tower?"

The bearded inventor has been trying to convince the Italian officials for two years that his £500,000 restoration plan will save the tower, which was built in 1177. At the top, the tower now leans 27 feet off-centre.

Cecil was in Pisa again four weeks ago. He says: "The Italians are lovely people, but they just can't make a decision about anything. You always have to ask someone else."

"I've had more trouble with the people than with the designs

to restore the tower. "They take the attitude that, if the tower has lasted this long, it won't fall down now."

The officials, who have £4 million available to spend on the tower, are still debating the issue. But the tower has been closed to the public for three months of repairs.

Cecil adds: "Money really doesn't come into saving a building like this. The most important thing is that something is done before it is too late. If we don't act now, it will fall down while we sit here pondering which plans to use."

"I was fed up watching all the debates — that's why I drew up the idea on my own. As a trained engineer, I know just what's required."

"I presented my plans to the head of the restoration team led by Professor Michele Jamiolkowski at the Polytechnic of Turin and he seemed very impressed."

Cecil, who has made a lucrative career from his inventions, including an automatic hair shampooer, adds: "I carried out a survey on the tower 30 years ago. It is an extraordinary building for the period. I told the Italians then it was beginning to lean over too much, and I said I could repair it for them."

"Now it is five and a half degrees out too far. Even four degrees is too much. But the situation is becoming critical."

"The problem is that the sand in the foundations has dried out. This makes the structure unstable. The builder, Bonanno Pisano, nearly got it right. His design was fine, but he built the tower in the wrong place."



"My idea in just common sense. If gravity made the tower lean over in the first place, it can make it easy up too. My project means that I use this force to make it stable. I should have carried out the project years ago. It was dangerous then but now the structure is leaning even further."

"I'm the only one to pull up an idea that will work. The leaning tower is a treasure, a wonder of the world, and I would love to save it."

Cecil, who lives in a seafront home in Hove, Sussex, claims to be a descendant of Vincent Watkins, the partner of the legendary Victorian railway engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

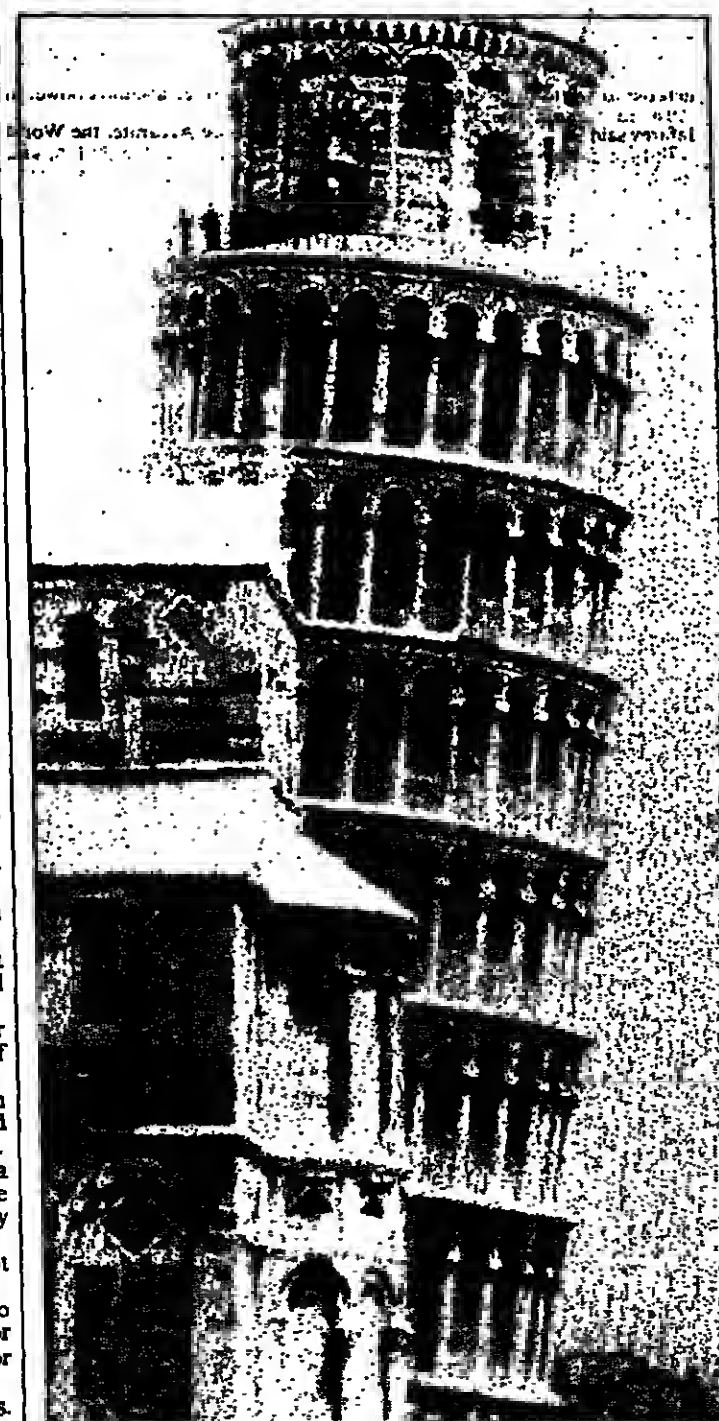
He is the picture of the typical eccentric English inventor with his neatly-trimmed beard and flamboyant cravat. And Cecil

has a plaque outside his home that tells visitors: "Cecil Watkins lives here NOW!"

Inside, the house is full of gadgets and inventions, including a telephone which folds into the wardrobe. Even the ordinary-looking mantelpieces can be suddenly pulled out to form beds.

Cecil's other inventions have included a wheelchair for going upstairs, car headlamps that dip automatically when faced with the lights from on-coming vehicles, a blind that automatically opens when the sun comes out and closes when it goes in.

The professor, who once hosted an inventor's television programme on television, recalls: "As a boy, I was always interested in mechanical objects. I loved to take things apart and put them back together. It really fascinated me to discover how machinery worked."



FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: A recent article in my local paper said that the number of people infected with AIDS was much less than predicted. Doesn't this prove that there was a lot of political pressure put on the government to spend money for AIDS, when the problem wasn't that great?

ANSWER: I believe you are referring to the recent report by the US Centers for Disease Control, which stated that between 800,000 and 1.3 million Americans are infected with the HIV virus, about 15 per cent under previous predictions. And I believe I catch your drift, implying that the previous reports might have been exaggerated to obtain additional attention to the needs of these patients.

First let me state that one of the glories of this country is the ability of any group of individuals with a cause to influence the government to respond to their needs.

"Political pressure" as you put it, or "political action" as I call it, is a big plus in the way we run our society.

As for the statistics, I don't believe there ever was any fudging in the calculations of the old numbers. To me, the new figures represent a victory of the educational efforts put forth by the government, the medical profession, and the many groups organised to get out the message. But I still worry about the number of cases that may go unreported, of the number of individuals who may be infected and still are unaware, and the fact that we still have no effective cure for the disease.

The diagnosis of AIDS continues to represent a death sentence for many, and the need for research is still with us. I can't in good conscience write off 1 million Americans who already are infected. The problem remains with us and is one of considerable importance, meriting research, study and continued action.

QUESTION: Regarding diverticulitis, what are the early signs of such a condition, and if it is confirmed, what type

Aids is indeed serious

of diet is recommended? ANSWER: To suffer from diverticulitis, which is an acute situation, you must first have diverticulosis. Diverticulosis is a condition where many small sacs or diverticula, push through the muscle wall of the colon. Thirty percent of people over the age of 50 may have these small sacs, or herniations, protruding through their colons. It is believed that they are caused by a lack of bulk in the diet, and resulting spasm of the colon muscles, which produce the pressure necessary to form the sacs.

In general, most people with diverticulosis have no symptoms, and a diet rich in roughage or fiber is recommended. When diverticulitis strikes, the picture changes rapidly. It may start with pain and tenderness in the abdomen, usually in the lower left portion, which rapidly becomes quite severe. Fever may be present, and sometimes a mass can be felt in the area of the pain. When this occurs, it is necessary to put the bowel to rest, using hospitalisation, intravenous fluids, and bed rest, with no food taken by mouth. Antibiotics are used when the temperature is high, and when infection is suspected.

The danger in diverticulitis is that the infected sac will perforate and allow the bowel contents to spread throughout the abdomen. In such cases surgery is usually required to repair the damage, sometimes by removing a piece of the colon. Seeking care at the earliest moment can do much to prevent complications.

Aging may be unavoidable, but you can learn to make the most of your later years. Dr. Bruckheim's new booklet, Aging — Learn to Enjoy the Inevitable, explains in simple, no-nonsense terms how aging affects the body and what you can do to make life more enjoyable. To order your copy, send \$2.95 to Aging, PO box 4406, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4406. Make checks payable to Newspaperbooks.

British company offers Shakespeare with a twist

LOS ANGELES, (UPI): The American theatregoer has not always been appreciative of the works of Shakespeare, but a respected English company making its American debut is winning new fans for the bard with popular versions of the classics.

Although performances of works by Shakespeare rarely attract big box-office, the Renaissance Theatre Company making its American premiere at the mark taper forum in Los Angeles has drawn lines comparable to those for the nearby smash hit "Phantom of the Opera."

"These are age-old themes. Everyone can relate to them. It's a matter of breaking down the Shakespeare barrier with the person coming to the theatre," said co-producer and actor Kenneth Branagh, also the star of the critically acclaimed film

"Henry V."

The company, headed by Branagh and his partner David Parfitt, kicked off a world tour in Los Angeles in January. Performing only "King Lear" and "Midsummer Night's Dream," the company will also be seen in Chicago and Toronto and in Japan, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Portugal.

The Renaissance Company was formed in the spring of 1987 after Branagh quit the Royal Shakespeare Company, complaining it had become too impersonal and large. The group has enjoyed rave reviews and sell-out crowds in London.

The company's "Midsummer Night's Dream" includes a group of actors in modern dress who perform the play's play-within-a-play and a bawdy English music hall number at the end of the last act

wedding. Choreographed by "Me and My Girl" choreographer Gillian Gregory, the music and dancing are more reminiscent of contemporary musicals than Shakespeare.

The entire play is performed as high comedy with a level of energy seen usually only in college productions.

"I think it's just the kind of wildness that can happen at anyone's wedding," Branagh said with a slight grin and a twinkling eye.

"King Lear" is played in almost Dickensian costumes and also at a raucous pitch.

Branagh, who is being hailed by some critics as the new Lawrence Olivier, dominates the stage when he appears as Edgar, the good but banished son of Gloucester, who late in the play has his eyes gouged out by Lear's evil daughters. Both productions use a modernistic set

surrounded by a rounded sheet of steel punched with holes used for dramatic lighting effects. Much of the Elizabethan era language unfamiliar to modern audiences is dropped and shortened, heightening tension and action almost to a point where the plays speed along like "Dynasty" or "Dallas."

"The two plays, a comedy and a tragedy, play well off each other, give each other energy," said co-producer Parfitt.

"They're also, hopefully, accessible to not only the regular theatregoer, but also to young people who might not have seen any Shakespeare."

Little more than a century ago it wasn't just the young people British theatre companies touring in America were worried about.

Happy birthday



Ibrahim Ziaudeen turns 4 today February 6.



Aisha Amin turned 4 on February 5



Divya Kakuzhyil turned 3 on February 3



Shayne De Cunha turned 5 on February 5



Roshani Ranawaka turns 15 on February 7



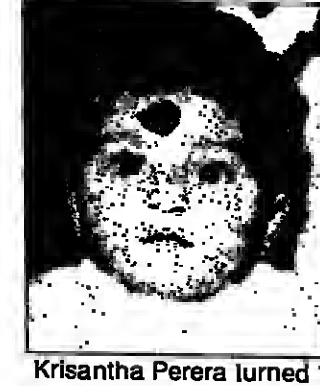
Kingsley Kanagaraj turned 11 on February 1



Lakshmi Narayanaswami turns 5 on February 7.



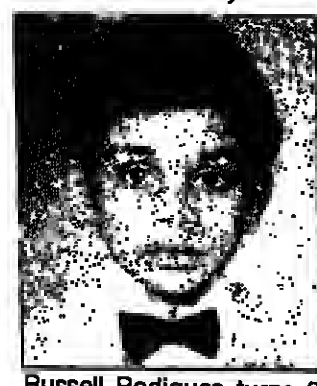
Mirza Baig turned 7 on January 29



Krisantha Perera turned 1 on February 5.



Haneen Ghabra turns 9 today February 6.



Russell Rodrigues turns 8 on February 7.



Paarlson Rayan turned 8 on February 5



Mahir Gazdar turned 8 on February 1.



Islam and Aya El Khatib turned 2 on February 3



Firdose Khijershaikhusman turned 1 recently

What are they doing?

Colour in the pictures and fill in the space below each.



The hippopotamus is



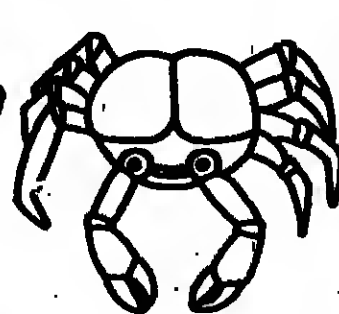
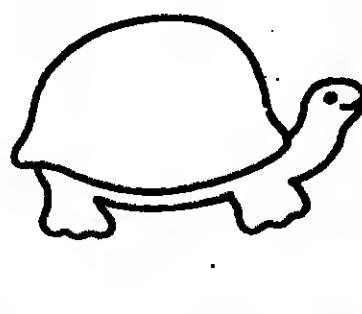
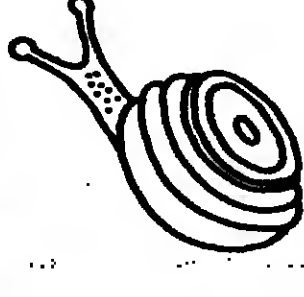
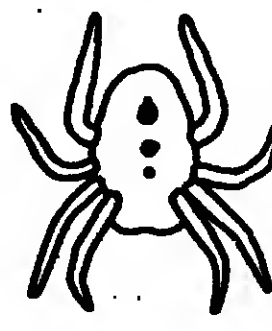
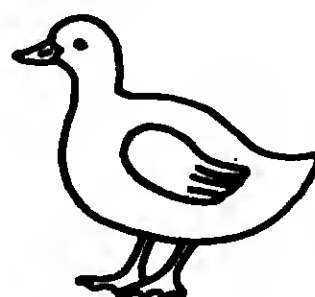
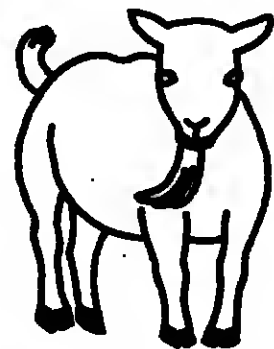
The panda is



The ostrich is

Fast

Colour the fastest animal in each group.



Variety

Bestsellers' list Dalglish makes a comeback

- Fiction
1. A Ruling Passion — Judith Michael (No.9 last week — 5,137 copies ordered)
 2. The Great Waldo Search — Martin Handford (3 — 4,179)
 3. The Bad Place — Dean Koonitz (1 — 3,899)
 4. Vindicta — Thomas Pynchon (7 — 2,673)
 5. Harmful Intent — Robin Cook (2 — 2,641)
 6. The Great and Secret Show — Clive Barker (6 — 2,497)
 7. Cold Harbour — Jack Higgins (4 — 2,197)
 8. Counterattack — W.E.B. Griffin (1,973)
 9. White Ninja — Eric Van Lustbader (8 — 1,866)
 10. Where's Waldo? — Martin Handford (10 — 1,766)
- Non-Fiction
1. Barbarians at the Gate — Bryan Burrough & John Helyar (8 — 3,846)
 2. Megatrends 2000 — John Naisbitt & Patricia Aburdene (2 — 3,714)
 3. Liar's Poker — Michael Lewis (3 — 3,371)
 4. Wealth Without Risk — Charles Givens (4 — 2,285)
 5. It Was On Fire When I Lay Down On It — Robert Fulghum (7 — 1,853)
 6. The Tempting of America — Robert Bork (1 — 1,806)
 7. The Emperor's New Mind — Roger Penrose (10 — 1,741)
 8. All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten — Robert Fulghum (6 — 1,512)
 9. Cuckoo's Egg — Clifford Stoll (5 — 1,331)
 10. The Language of Flowers — Sheila Picketts (1,326)
- Mass Paperbacks
1. The Gunslinger — Stephen King (10 — 5,701)
 2. Web of Dreams — V.C. Andrews (8 — 5,439)
 3. Mutation — Robin Cook (5,333)
 4. Born on the Fourth of July — Ron Kovic (3 — 4,481)
 5. Desperado's Drug Wars — Elaine Shanoon (4 — 4,431)
 6. All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten — Robert Fulghum (1 — 4,168)
 7. How to Win at Nintendo Games Vol. 2 — Jeff Rovin (3,953)
 8. Too Deep for Tears — Kathryn Lynn Davis (3,185)
 9. Night Storm — Catherine Coulter (3,091)
 10. The New Kids on the Block — Grace Catalano (9 — 2,839)
- Trade Paperbacks
1. Fifty Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth — Earthworks Project (2 — 9,883)
 2. Compute's guide to Nintendo Games — Steven Schwartz (5,117)
 3. Buraubum's Walt Disney World 1990 — Steve Buraubum (303)
 4. The Prestigious of the Far Side, 10th Anniversary Edition — Gary Larson (3 — 3,866)
 5. The New Basics Cookbook — Julie Rosso & Sheila Lukins (3,028)
 6. Love You Forever — Robert Munsch (8 — 2,935)
 7. Dependence No More — Melody Beattie (7 — 2,410)
 8. One Up on Wall Street — Peter Lynch (2,304)
 9. Healing the Shame that Binds — John Bradshaw (5 — 2,273)
 10. The T-Factor Gram Counter — Martin Katan (10 — 2,263)
- Rankings based on orders to Ingram Book Co. from more than 7,000 bookstores nationwide.

DEVICES AND DESIRES by P. D. James (Knopf, 433 pp., \$19.95)

IN P.D. James' intricate new novel, "Devices and Desires" old standy detective Adam Dalgliesh is back. But not in his usual role as a Scotland Yard official. Instead, the inspector is out of London and in the remote Norfolk headland where he has come to inspect an old mill inherited from his aunt. Coincidentally, it seems at first, the mill sits next to the Larkosken nuclear power station.

Of course, Dalgliesh cannot even take a vacation without a murder popping up. A serial killer known as the Whistler stalks the area. Soon there is a murder close to the people who inhabit the headland and one that may or may not be the work of the Whistler.

As usual, James' cast of characters is impressive in its rich diversity. There is chief Inspector Rickards, in charge of the murder investigation; Alex Mair, the director of the power station, and his sister Alice, with whom he shares a dark secret from childhood. Neil Pascoe is mounting a pathetic, one-man crusade against the power station and has crossed paths with Hilary Roberts, the station's acting administrative officer. And there is Ryan Blaney, an artist struggling to raise four children after the death of his wife.

As usual, James is superb at characterisation, letting readers into the lives of the characters. This is always the most pleasant part of reading her work.

Still, "Devices and Desires" takes some effort to get into. Perhaps because of the large number of characters, perhaps because of the technical language about how a nuclear power station works, the book doesn't always crackle the way the best of James does. In the end, however, she comes through with a first rate mystery that is, as always, much more. (UPI)

EMPEROR OF AMERICA, by Richard Condon (Simon and Schuster)

Even after 25 books, Richard Condon apparently has a thing or two to learn about writing political satire.

For one thing, it ought to be funny.

For another, it ought to be incisive and thought-provoking. "Emperor of America" is none of those, and less.

Condon's novel is the tale of a successful but naive and manipulative army officer, Caesar Appleton, hero of the defence of (in the first 26 pages) Portugal, Hungary, Southeast Asia and Argentina against the maraud-

Devices and desires

ing Nicaraguan Sandinista hordes.

Appleton is elevated by a succession of improbable circumstances — including the nuclear incineration of the district of Columbia to the throne of the American empire.

The real power, though, is held by the fabulously rich royalists, who take the Reagan revolution to what they consider its logical extreme in an effort to, as the most sinister of those characters repeatedly puts it, "Get The Money."

Certainly, Ronald Reagan, as a major figure in recent history, remains fair game for political satire.

But Garry Trudeau, Mark Russell and their contemporaries have nothing to fear from this artless, puerile exercise in Reagan bashing.

It is not clever. It is not funny. It is not incisive.

It is redundant. It is didactic. It is largely boring and dumb. It is, in places, ineptly written and evidently unedited.

It is not worth your time. (UPI)

MISTLETOE MYSTERIES, collected by Charlotte MacLeod (Mysterious Press)

If your Christmas didn't live up to your expectations, spare some pity for the poor people in

Charlotte MacLeod's short story collection. Instead of carols they all got crime, mostly murder.

The stories in "Mistletoe Mysteries" were "written expressly for this anthology," something that often translates into hazy beware. Not in this case.

MacLeod has gathered entries from the likes of Isaac Asimov and Mary Higgins Clark; from Marcia Muller and Howard Engel. She has put one of her own under the tree as well, and each is a pleasure to open.

If you like mysteries and didn't get suitable reading matter from Santa, treat yourself to this book. (UPI)

OUTLAW, by Warren Kiefer

The key to enjoying "Outlaw," a wonderfully moving and thoroughly engrossing novel by Warren Kiefer, is to prepare for the experience by insisting on privacy while reading. You'll learn to love isolation with this well-crafted historical fiction.

The story is told in the first person, with 89-year-old Lee Garland beginning with Apachees killing his parents in his native New Mexico. He then proceeds to detail a life as a cowboy/cattle-rustler, mercenary, banker, oilman, lover, loyal friend and vicious enemy.

Metheny's dancing rhythms Maths-like challenge

BOSTON, (UPI): If Pat Metheny hadn't fallen in love with the guitar when he was a kid growing up outside Kansas City, chances are he might be teaching maths today.

While Metheny writes instrumental compositions rich with dancing rhythms and catchy melodies, he finds the creative process itself to be a maths-like challenge.

"Generally, I try to solve musical problems. It is an unromantic way to put it, even though I try to satisfy the listener that lives within me," Metheny says. "If I have two notes, the generally suggests what the third note should be. I spend a lot of time trying to find the appropriate third note."

"It is very difficult for me to write. I love it, but I can't say it is fun. It is painful — the feeling that you have something on the tip of your tongue but you can't quite say it. To have that feeling for 8 to 10 hours a day for two or three weeks in a row is tough."

Metheny, 35, who is based in nearby Cambridge, reflected on his career and his writing during a recent brief break in a global tour that took his band, Pat Metheny group, across the United States and Europe and his now headed to South America and Japan.

Last year's "Letter From Home" was his 14th recording in the past 13 years. That highly productive — and high quality — output has earned him a slew of Grammy nominations and two awards in the jazz fusion category.

Metheny recently recorded with Brazilian guitarist Torrinho Horta and also appears on "reunion," the stunning new recording by former boss Gary Burton, with whom he will tour for three weeks this spring for the first time in 14 years.

A trio album, "parallel realities," with drummer Jack DeJohnette and pianist Herbie Hancock will be released in April and followed with a two-month summer tour with DeJohnette, Hancock and bassist Dave Holland.

Metheny co-produced the DeJohnette session and wrote four of the tunes. "Jack's idea was to cover a lot of musical ground — straight-ahead, free stuff, melodic stuff and a lot of Syncopated digital music."

"I don't think it is an earth-shattering record. There are no new concepts, but it is real solid. With lots of listening, you hear a lot of things on there you don't hear the first time."

"Jack and I prepared the music together, knowing herbie could just come in and play. It almost doesn't matter what he plays in terms of notes. His sound and touch and feel are at such a high level, there are so many things going on there."

Metheny is uncomfortable with the "fusion" label that dogs his highly improvised music.

"I hate the term," he says. "I always have. It is such a strange word. To imply that there is more merging together of musicians and styles than ever before in the past is incorrect to me. In the whole history of jazz, there is a clear and strong tradition of people using whatever sources they could when playing. This is a critical element in jazz."

"Jazz guys were always the first to adapt to new things: The drum set, the saxophone, the synthesizer. What we are doing, particularly with my band, is just an extension of that tradition."

Metheny splits his playing between acoustic and electric guitars and a synthesizer-enhanced guitar that is linked to a synthesizer digital music system.

The electronic enhancements open up a lot of possibilities, but Metheny says it takes a lot of work to iron out developmental bugs in the equipment.

"These things have a very limited dynamic range in their out-of-the-box stage. You have to work harder to make them sound good. You are putting two or three levels of things between what you are playing and what the audience is hearing, which means the conception has to be twice as strong to make the trip."

How cars, coal choke Europeans

DUBLIN, (Reuters): Smog blanketing Dublin became so thick that midday looked more like midnight on its gloomy streets.

In Athens, a filthy brown cloud hovers almost daily over the ancient city, sending the elderly to hospitals in droves.

In Milan, the mayor banned lorries, urged motorists to abandon their cars and told people to turn down their heating.

Across the heavily industrialised and densely populated countries of Western Europe, cars and coal are the main cause of the smog poisoning the air.

But their problems pale in comparison with the environmental headaches of Eastern Europe, shaking off communism and battling to establish market-oriented economies but facing colossal pollution problems that have been ignored for years.

A one-hour stroll in Budapest is said to be as bad for your lungs as a pack of cigarettes. Broadcasts regularly warn against taking children outdoors during winter smogs.

In the grimy East German city of Bitterfeld, the air is so bad that schoolchildren are sent to a Baltic resort for a month every year to breathe the freely again.

Prague's Hradcany Castle gives a panoramic view of the heavy smog floating over the Czechoslovakian capital on all but the windiest of days.

In the medieval Polish City of Krakow, the faces on the ancient sandstone statues have crumbled away amid the fumes from a giant steel mill.

Pollution knows no frontiers and the

problem, as a Reuters survey across the capitals of Europe showed, is finding enough money combined with enough political will to eradicate the choking clouds poisoning millions of people.

Rainer Frommann, environmental commissioner in Bitterfeld, put the case succinctly for Eastern Europe when reviewing controls at its antiquated plants.

"Trying to put a Western anti-pollution device on these factories would be like putting a gold watch on the wrist of a corpse," he said.

The main smog culprit on Hungarian streets is its ageing stock of East bloc cars which on average are about nine years old. Spreading the use of lead-free petrol and introducing catalytic converters appear to have been shelved for lack of

resources.

Kracow is on a United Nations list of treasures of humanity's heritage. Local authorities have ordered the steel mill there to reduce its production by a third but that could take years.

Pollution has fallen by 20 per cent in Warsaw since January 1 when the government doubled the price of petrol, forcing many drivers to use public transport.

West European governments have also had to take drastic measures to curb the excesses of affluent car owners.

When Milan Mayor Paolo Pillitteri introduced an experimental Sunday ban on all cars, pollution was cut by a third and citizens took to the streets skateboards, horses and bicycles.

Car fumes and industrial emissions trapped within the ring of hills surround-

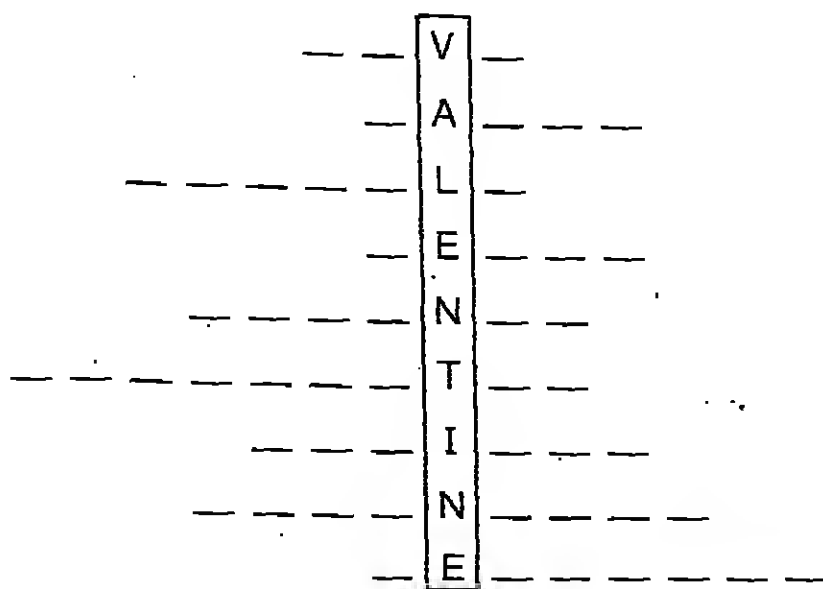
ing Athens forced the government to take emergency measures — banning private cars from the city centre, closing schools and cutting industrial fuel consumption by half.

Athens wants to host the 1996 Olympics. A Soviet marathon runner competing in the European championships there gave his verdict: "My lungs hurt. It is a crime that races take place in such a dirty atmosphere."

Ireland had pledged to make the environment a top priority during its current six-month presidency of the European Economic community.

Environment minister Padraig Flynn matched the promise with a one billion punt (\$1.5 billion) package of measures to clean up the "Emerald Isle."

Directions: Place the words from the word list below in the spaces. Place one letter in each blank. Use each word only once.



Word List:

friends
love
holiday
cards

heart
February
Lincoln
Washington
groundhog



Why Ma?

Why Ma, Why Ma,
why is this,
why do I ask questions,
and get all in a tiz.

I don't know all the answers,
I'm sure that you do though,
so that is why I'm asking
so many in a row.

It's the only way I learn Ma,
to go on stop talk all day;
but Ma I'm oh so grateful,
that you listen to me that way.

If the sky is blue and grass is green,
then why are cows so brown?
why aren't they as green as the grass that they eat,
which is always gobbled down.

It's plain to see, the more you ask,
the more you want to learn,
and I ask and ask, and never tire,
of the things that make me yearn.

Julie Hodgson.

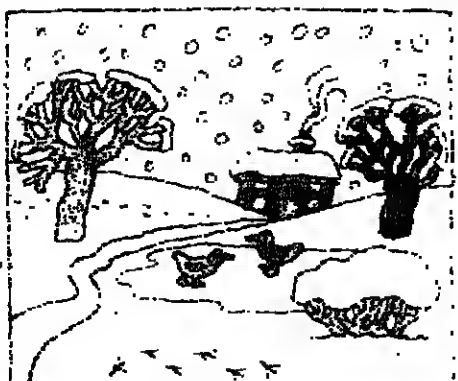


Join the science gang

My clothes

Which sorts of weather do you think these clothes are for?

Draw lines from each set of clothes to the right weather pictures.



Note to Parents

The classification of weather as hot, cold or wet can be extended to include sunny weather etc. Discuss how your child might feel if he/she went out dressed for the wrong sort of weather.

Wordsearch SHAKESPEARE

ACTOR	LONDON
ANNE (wife)	MARY (mother)
APRIL (born & died)	MASTERY
AVON	PLAYWRIGHT
BACON	POET
BEST	QUOTED
BURBAGE (partner)	REGARD
COLLABORATION	SOLILOQUY
COMEDIES	SONNETS
COURT	STAGE
DRAMATIST	STRATFORD
ENGLISH	SUSANNA (daughter)
GENIUS	TALENT
GLOBE	THEATRE
GREAT	TRAGEDIES
HATHAWAY	WILLIAM
JOHN (father)	WITTY
KING'S MEN (acting group)	

BYTHEATREGABRUB
AHAJDGGNJREGARD
CTOWEEGRRLAMBNGS
OHSNALT OEAPTOUT
NYIEIHNOIASRSLH
IURSBDTLUITAIMG
STHAOSLATQNGCLI
NNENMIOAHNTEOPR
EENLWCMNAFEDMYW
MLNKOAVONGDIETY
SAAUROTCAEBEDTA
GTRDROFTARTSIL
NTLNMASTERYSEWP
ICRPYUQOLILOSTO
KZNOITAROBALLOC

Dear Junior readers,

On rainy days, such as those we experienced this week, people are confined to staying at home except if absolutely necessary. If television and video were the only means of pastime, people would soon become extremely bored with their comfortable homes.

Perhaps board games are the most common and most educating indoor group pastime. There is such a large, reasonably priced, variety of these games on the market: Cluedo, Who killed who?, Snakes and Ladders, Frustration, Monopoly, Risk, Scrabble and many

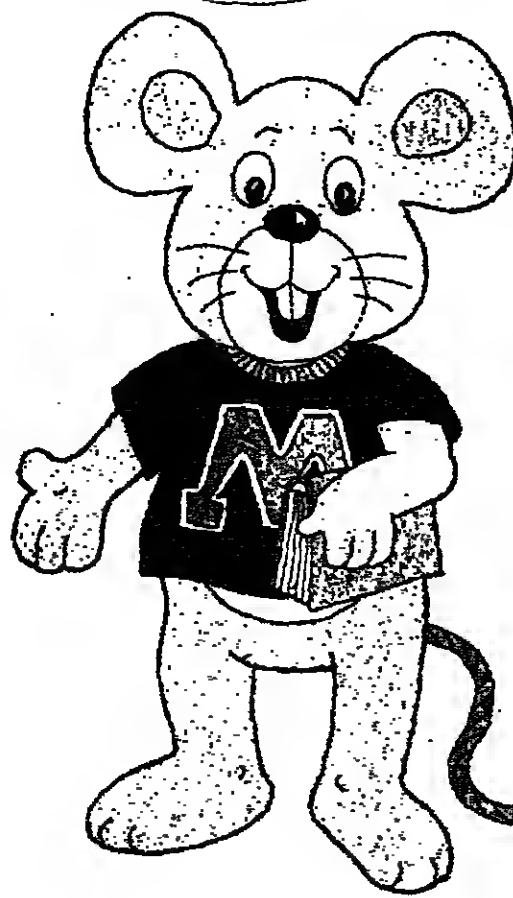
more. It is worthwhile to save some of your pocket money and, with help from your parents, buy a small variety of these games — perhaps a three in one box — for these indoor days.

To make the games more exciting, keep a scoreboard and aim at becoming the Grand Winner.

If your younger brothers/sisters wish to join in the fun, please don't push them out. Give them simple tasks to do like keeping the scoreboard. They can draw a line under the respective name each time someone wins!

Manal

My bookmark

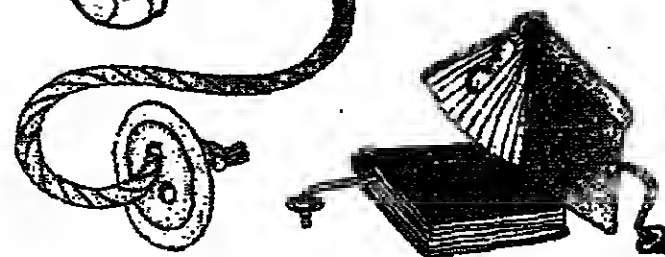


Trace the mouse onto thickish card.

Colour like this and cut out.

Glue a long string tail to the back of the mouse and tie a big button to the other end.

The mouse will hide inside your book at the right page, leaving his tail hanging out to show you where to look!



Five currant buns in
the baker's shop.
Big and fat with sugar
on the top.
Along came a boy(girl)
with a penny one day,
Bought a currant bun
And took it away.

(Continue rhyme with
"Four currant buns" etc)



Order! Order!

Who is third? The ... Ring her



Who is fifth? The ... Ring her



Who is seventh? The ... Ring him



Who is fourth? The ... Ring him



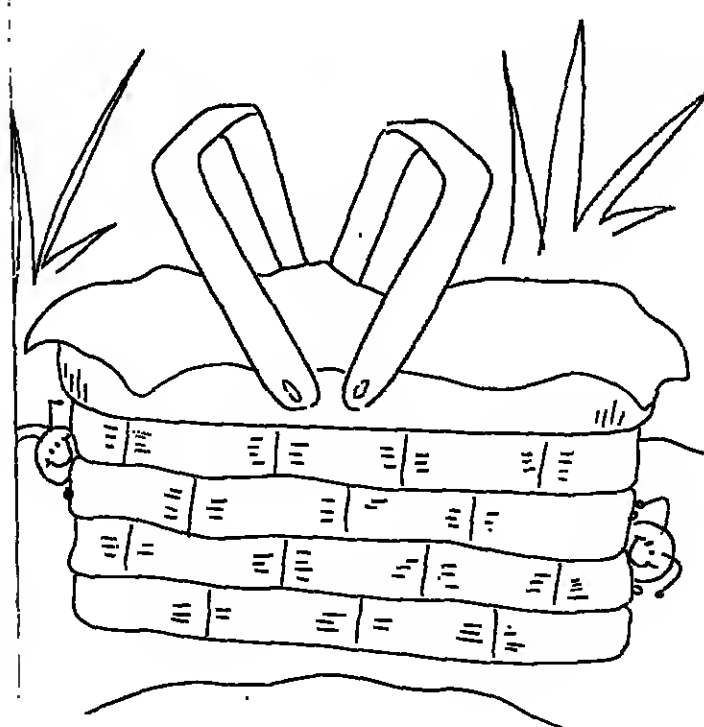
Ring the second and the sixth ones.



Who is last? The ... Who is first? The ... Ring them.



Colour Time



PICNIC LUNCH

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name:
Date of birth:
School:
Hobbies:
Telephone:
(confidential)

Your
favourite
most
recent
picture
(4x6)

Send to:
ARAB TIMES
Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait
To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Sam Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



AGATHA CHRISTIE



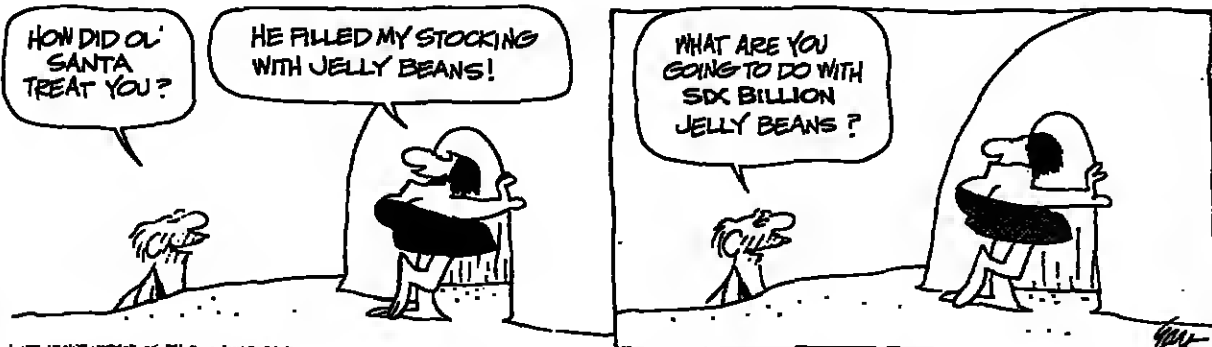
THE WIZARD OF ID



ANDY CAPP



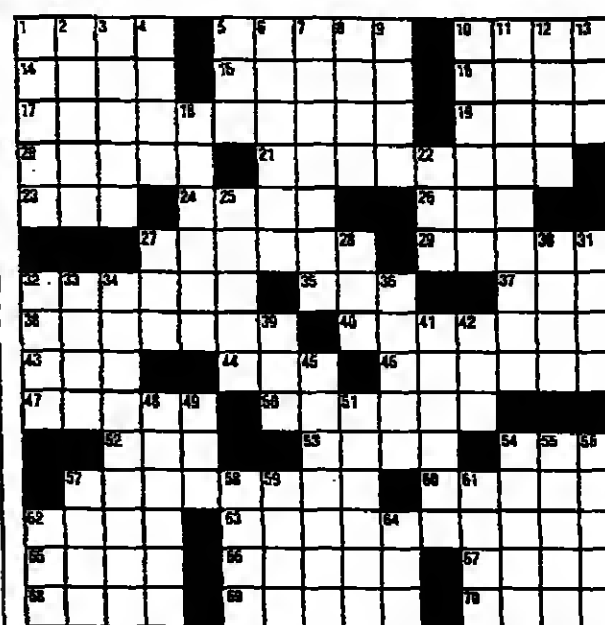
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
1 Young oyster
5 Smart follower
10 NCO
14 Candystriper, e.g.
15 Alcott's "Little—"
16 Tam's hua
17 Weather map storm belt
19 Type of stem
20 Besmirch
21 Essential to completeness
23 Still
24 NBA Hall of Famer
26 Pen inmate?
27 What a business hopes to do
29 Tarsus
32 National park in SW Alberta
35 Job
37 Catch
38 Canine's neighbor
40 Small rocket launcher of WW II
43 Before, in Berlin
44 Not any, in law
46 Worked on
47 Make use of
50 Ties the knot again
52 Companions of "O" and "U"
53 Muslim judge
54 Ready
57 — Valley, Calif.
60 Houston player
62 Olive genus
63 Saw-whet's cousin
65 Old-growth specimens
66 Vice follower
67 Ron Howard role
68 Author of "The Dinner Party"
- DOWN
1 Fresh
2 Intense
3 No longer a minor
4 Freshwater duck
5 Punctured
6 Nabokov character
7 Outstanding
8 Copper
9 Word with deep or high
10 Mark over a vowel
11 Intercom
12 Pigeon, in a way
13 Scot's cap
18 Wildcat
22 Juliette Low's org.
25 Child's cover-up
27 Gram or graph lead-in
28 Smidgen
30 Titicaca, for one
31 "Zounds!"
32 Cab Calloway specialty
33 "Strong as —"
34 Sensational headlines
36 Tore
39 Robot drama
41 Astrologer's research source
42 West, hemisphere gp.
45 "A Perfect Spy" author
48 Spread
49 Draw
51 Poland's Lech
54 "A face that would — clock"
55 Stu of screenland
56 Landlord's sign
57 Hip bones
58 Invitation letters
59 Westernmost country of Eur.
61 Arrive as expected
62 Away from the job
64 Down

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

DAISY AMARIS ATAR
DALE PINTA RAGE
ORAL ADDER IRON
REPLICA PASSAGE
NESS BEEN
SMILE MOAT TIE
TOMES BERN HELP
ALPS DATED ALLO
MARE ALAS AILED
PRE ULAN FLARE
SANS ASTA
CLAWIER PARLORS
HIRE GORES ALAN
AMIR NAILS MORE
RIGOT ORALE BRAE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
SUCCESSION TO PRESSURE

North-South vulnerable. South for a penalty of at least 500 points.

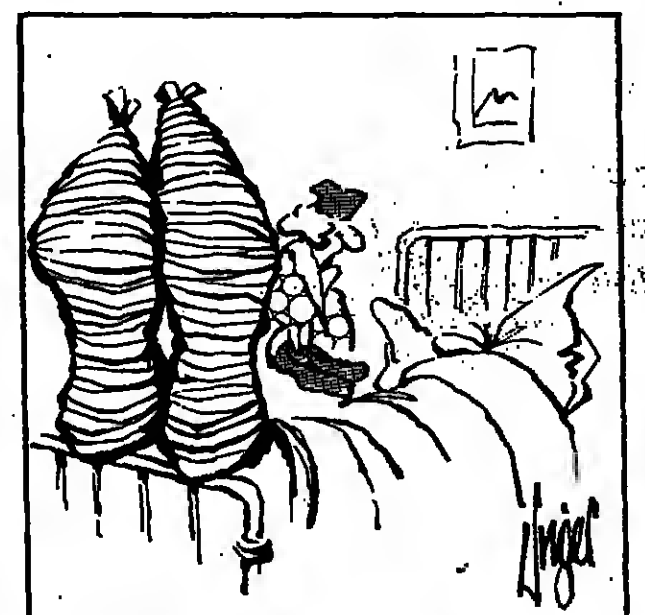
At duplicate, however, 500 points would not be enough to compensate for a vulnerable game. So when New Jerseyans Larry Cohen and Dave Berkowitz sat North-South, Cohen elected to bid three no trump—a contract which was in some jeopardy.

West led a low heart, and declarer correctly inserted dummy's jack. When that won, the queen of clubs was run successfully (East would have done better to cover). Declarer oxt tried the diamond finesse and, when the jack won, he led a low spade toward the table's honors.

West hopped up with the king and reverted to the king of hearts, taken with the ace. Both of dummy's spades were cashed, East discarding a diamond on the second of these. Declarer came to hand with another diamond finesse and cashed the ace of spades. Since East could not discard from either minor suit without setting up at least one trick for declarer, he was forced to part with the remaining heart. So Berkowitz cashed the ace of diamonds and exited with a diamond to East's king. That worthy now had to lead away from his king of clubs into declarer's combined ace-jack tenace, giving declarer an amazing 11 tricks to all.

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT DbI 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♠

This hand from the recent Fall North American Championships highlights one of the differences between rubber bridge and duplicate. West's double of the one no trump opening bid was a major-suit take-out. At rubber bridge, North's take-out would be clear. He would redouble, and then double whatever suit his opponents came to rest in. As the cards lie, that would result in North-South collecting a minimum of two tricks in each suit, depending on where East-West came to rest,



"I brought your slippers."

YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 20
You should not allow yourself to be invaded by negative thoughts. Your lucky numbers are 3 and 42. Give your partner no cause for complaint. Make sure you do not eat more than you know you should. Be fair.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
Have the courage of your convictions and do not baulk at your problems. Instead face up to them and do not hide your head in the sand. Make sure you get plenty of exercise and enough rest, too. Be moderate.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
You should pay more attention to what others are saying and be less fond of the sound of your own voice. Show a little more respect for your elders. You should do all you can to avoid running out of enthusiasm. Be truthful.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
You will be able to do something more practical. You will be on better terms with your colleagues at work. And you should also make sure that you do not become estranged from an old friend. Be sincere.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20
Ensure your diet contains enough vitamins. You will be more persuasive but should not rely on that to get your way in all things. All kinds of exaggerations are to be avoided. Be tolerant.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21
You will not feel at your best but with a little more willpower will be able to do what has to be done. You should make sure you do not allow yourself to overstep. Do not rely too much on someone you do not know very well. Be dependable.



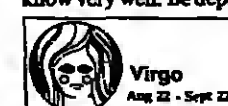
Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You are more liable to say things on the spur of the moment. Try to curb the tendency or else you will come to regret it. Make sure you do not exceed any limits. Be polite.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
You will not get your own way in all things, but did you expect to? You will be able to widen your cultural interests, but avoid over-extending yourself. Try not to make too much noise and shy away from excessive noise too.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20
There will be plenty of distractions but you should resist them. Do not spend too long chatting on the phone. Avoid postponing things, rather get on with them straight away. Be magnanimous.



Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
You will be better able to face up to change but should avoid change just for the sake of changing. Do not get lost in detail, and keep your objectives in view. Look after your health a little better. Be reasonable.



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will have some luck but more by way of avoiding loss than of gain. You should not neglect a personal matter, but nor should you spend too much time upon it. Avoid going to extremes and do not exaggerate. Be prompt.



Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will be able to see things more clearly than you have done recently. You should not try to get out of keeping a promise you have made. Think twice or more before doing something you are tempted to do. Be precise.



"I'm sorry, sir, Dr. Rogers can see you only by referral."



"Clarissa, will you please get back in here this instant."

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(AT3-51386-3)

FARWANIYA. One room with kitchen facilities for single or 2/3 bachelors in two bedroom bachelors' flat in convenient location. Tele. Marvin Carvalho, 2418634, 2418550.

(AT3-51394-3)

KUWAIT City, behind the GPO, one room for 2 Goan bachelors to share with a Goan family. Also 1 room for 1 bachelor to share with another bachelor. Tele. 2449001 ext. 660.

(AT2-51382-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, behind the Firdous Cinema beside the Teachers Training Institute (female), house No. 117. Accommodation for a family. Tele. Ezzat Mohamed Musa, 2432169.

(AT4-51411-3)

SALMIYA, near the fire station in suitable location. Single room for a Muslim bachelor. Tele. Abdul Rashid, 2409270, 5-8 pm.

(AT3-51383-3)

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I, Ali Husain, holder of Indian passport No. U246430, hereby change my name to Ali Husain Fida Husain Kapadia.

(AT2-51376-3)

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(AT2-51371-3)

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(AT3-51384-3)

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(AT2-51379-6)

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CITROEN, 1986 model, rarely used, in good condition. KD1,800, negotiable. Tele. Mr. Adel, 2633167, 2633479.

(AT3-51385-3)

NISSAN Patrol, 4 wheel drive, 85 model, 1 door, white, 72,000 kms, insured up to Oct '90, in very good condition. KD1,600. Tele. 4884196, 2-9 pm only.

(AT2-51350-3)

BMW 320, '79 model, automatic, with AC, white, insured up to July 1990. KD500, negotiable. Tele. 5627272.

(AT3-51392-3)

Miscellaneous
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(AT4-51414-3)

SOFA set KD50, TV 27" KD45, TV stand KD9, 2 ACs KD90, cooker, oil heater etc. Tele. Arafat, 5740215.

(AT4-51407-3)

BMW motorcycle K-100RS metallic pearl white, 1988 model in excellent condition. Tele. Osman, 2546022, 12 noon - 4 pm.

(AT4-51396-3)

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(AT4-51368-3)

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(AT2-51377-3)

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(AT2-51370-3)

TWO bedroom, CAC apartment in Sharq, near Al Amin Hospital for sale. Rent KD170 with water. Tele. Kamal, 3980414, 8.30 - 10.30 am.

(AT4-51402-3)

IKEA, European household furniture and pure leather chairs etc. for immediate sale. Also fax machine. Tele. 2401947/8.

(AT4-MUS-TM-3)

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(Hoover automatic), KD80; washing machine (Electrolux automatic), KD70; Belling cooking range, KD50; settee, KD30; TV aerial VHF/UHF, KD15, side cabinet, KD10 and children's items. Tele. 5621441, anytime.

(AT2-51375-3)

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(AT2-51369-3)

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(AT3-51391-3)

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(AT4-51404-2)

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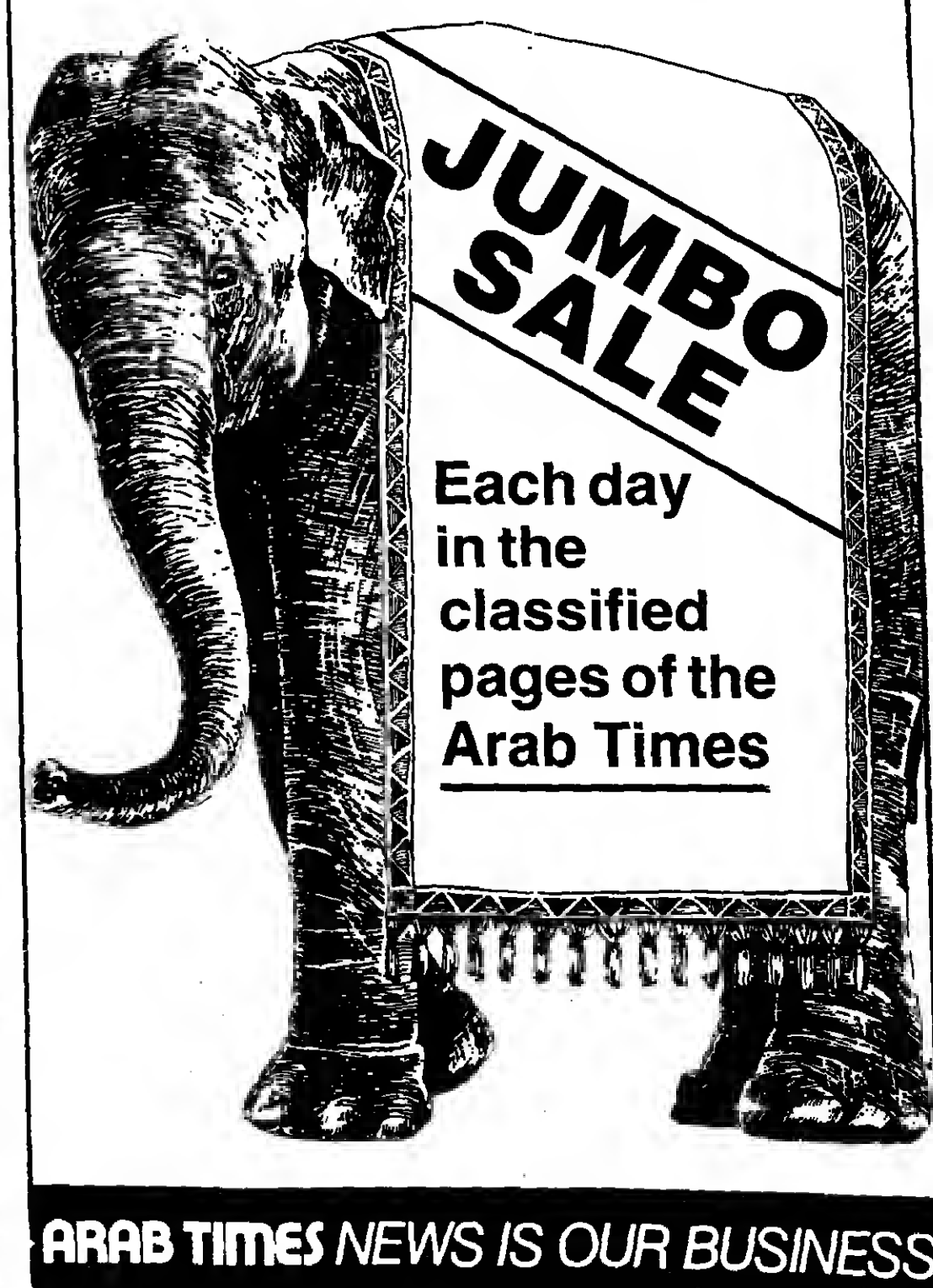
(AT4-LD's-TM-3)

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(AT4-51413-3)



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ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

Germans aim to combine teams by 1996 Games

BONN, Feb 5, (Reuters): East and West Germany are "certain" to send one combined German team to the 1996 Olympic Games, a leading East German sports official said yesterday.

"At the 1996 Olympics there is certain to be one German team," Jochen Gruenwald of the East German Sports Federation (DTSB) told the West German sports news agency Sid in an interview in East Berlin.

With plans for political unity of the two Germans picking up pace by the day, East German sports chiefs believe the two countries should move fast to merge their sporting worlds.

"Sport must send a strong social message to politics. We sportsmen can be a model," Gruenwald said referring to East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow's four-point plan for German unity announced last Thursday.

East and West Germany entered combined teams at the 1956, 1960 and 1964 Olympic Games before competing separately for the first time in 1968.

While national Olympic chiefs remain reserved, saying a single German team depends on political changes, the two states have moved forward fast with plans for joint training and events in many sports since the Berlin Wall crumbled three months ago.

Most nations will shudder at the thought of a combination of the East's efficiency at finding and nurturing talent and the West's big financial backing of sport.

Together they would certainly pose a major threat to the Soviet Union and the United States, traditionally the world's leading powers at Olympic Games.

"I think we could build very good teams in many sports," Rolf Donath, head of East Germany's leading sports science centre near Dresden, told West German radio.

Thousands of East German sports fans took to the streets of East Berlin and Potsdam at the weekend in protests against proposed cutbacks to the national sports budget which many feel will threaten the state's future success.

Rapid Vienna defeat Qatar in friendly

DOHA, Qatar, Feb 5, (AP): Rapid Vienna beat Qatar 1-0 in an exhibition match yesterday. But Qatar goalkeeper Younes Ahmed was the hero of the hour.

It was only his stout defence against repeated strikes by the Austrian First Division team that kept the score so low.

The half-time score was 0-0 and it wasn't until the 85th minute that Heimo Pfeifenberger scored from a penalty kick.

Pfeifenberger and five other Rapid Vienna players are in the Austrian squad that will compete in the 24-nation World Cup finals in June.

The Qatari and Bahraini teams are warming up for the Arab Gulf Soccer Championship scheduled for Feb 20.

The six Gulf Co-operation Council countries - Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates - plus Iraq will play in the Gulf championship.

Celtics thrash Kings 76ers outlast Bucks

MILWAUKEE, Feb 5, (AP): Derek Smith converted a three-point play with 25 seconds left and Ron Anderson made four free throws in the closing seconds yesterday as the Philadelphia 76ers held off the Milwaukee Bucks 105-102 for their 11th straight victory.

The 76ers, on their longest winning streak since 1984-85 when they won 13 straight, played with a limping Charles Barkley, who injured a groin in the first quarter but still finished with 14 points. They also lost Rick Mahorn, who was ejected with nine minutes left in the third quarter.

Pistons 115, Jazz 83 The Detroit Pistons held Utah to its lowest point total of the season yesterday, beating the Jazz 115-83 for their seventh straight victory.

The loss was only the second in 13 games for the Jazz, who dropped into a first-place tie with San Antonio in the Midwest Division. The victory increased Detroit's lead to four games over second-place Chicago in the Central Division.

Warriors 105, Timberwolves 95

Chris Mullin scored 18 points and led a second-quarter surge as Golden State won its fourth straight. Randy Brenner scored a career-high 40 points for Expan-



Kings' Danny Ainge (right) tries to pass around Reggie Lewis. (Reuters wirephoto)

sion Minnesota, which had its longest winning streak stopped at three. Golden State, leading 31-30, outscored the Timberwolves 30-10 in the second quarter. Mullin scored 10 points in the period as Golden State shot 61 per cent to

26 per cent for Minnesota. Tim Hardaway had 21 points and Mitch Richmond 20 for Golden State.

Nuggets 125, Hawks 113

Fat Lever scored 12 of his 18 points in the third quarter and Denver outscored Atlanta 19-6 to begin the second half in sending the Hawks to their fifth straight defeat.

Michael Adams had 27 points, Walter Davis 24 and Alex English 18 as Denver withstood a three-man offensive barrage by the Hawks. Dominique Wilkins scored 35 points, Moses Malone had 29 and John Long tied his season high with 20 for Atlanta.

Celtics 121, Kings 88 Kevin McHale scored 14 points and rookie Michael Smith added 10 in a 33-10 second-quarter spurt that turned a 24-19 lead after one quarter into a 57-29 hulk with 2:26 left in the second period. The Celtics made 15 of 18 shots in the second quarter.

Boston was led by McHale with 21 points and Smith and Jim Paxson with season highs of 16. The Kings were paced by Kenny Smith with 18 points.

Results
Detroit 115 Utah 85
Philadelphia 105 Milwaukee 102
Golden State 105 Minnesota 95
Denver 125 Atlanta 113
Boston 121 Sacramento 89
Portland 123 Phoenix 121
L.A. Lakers 121 New Jersey 105



O'Meara triumphs at Pebble Beach

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif., Feb 5, (Reuters): Mark O'Meara continued his great run of success in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament by taking a two-stroke victory over Keney Perry to pocket the \$180,000 first prize.

The victory was O'Meara's second straight in the tournament and his third here in the last five years.

O'Meara shot an even-par 72 on his last tour of the Pebble Beach course to finish with a total of seven-under-par 281.

"I felt very comfortable all day," the 33-year-old O'Meara said. "I was hitting nice shots. Maybe I relaxed a little on the chip shot at the 16th hole and the tee shot at the 17th, but those probably were the only times."

Perry shot a 70 for his 283 total. PGA champion Payne Stewart, with a 73, and 1989 player of the year Tom Kite, with a 71, tied for third place at 284.

Rocco Mediate, who was one shot behind overnight leader O'Meara when the round started, dropped back into a tie for eighth after a 77.

O'Meara was in command all day. He started the round with a one-shot lead and although Payne Stewart challenged late in the outgoing nine, he faltered to shoot four-over-par 40 coming in.

He had a four-stroke lead through the 15th hole, but the two lapses in concentration cost him bogeys on 16 and 17. O'Meara was able to maintain his lead, however, as Perry bogeyed the 17th and Stewart bogeyed the 16th and 18th holes.

In Lake Worth, Fla., Pat Bradley came back from squandering a five-stroke lead to sink a 20-foot putt on the last hole of regulation play to reach a playoff where she beat Dale Eggeing on the first hole to win the \$300,000 Lake Worth Classic LPGA golf tournament yesterday.

Bradley capped her incredibly erratic day by winning her 24th LPGA title by sinking another 20 footer on the first hole of sudden death.

Bradley indicated the kind of day it would be for her when she overshot the green on the first hole and two-putted for a bogey.

Meanwhile, Barbara Mochrie, who was in second place at the start of play, made a birdie-three to cut Bradley's margin to three shots.

Bradley answered by hitting palm tree and then plopping a shot into the water on the par-five second hole for a double-bogey to cut her lead to just one stroke.

Bradley birdied the sixth hole for a two-stroke lead, but stumbled again by three-putting the par-four ninth hole for a one-stroke lead again.

Meanwhile, in the group ahead of Bradley and Mochrie, Eggeing was charging hard. She had four birdies on the first 10 holes.

Bradley, for the first time in the tournament, fell back into the field with a bogey on the 14th hole to tie for the lead with Mochrie and Eggeing.

Lynagh rejects \$770,000 offer
SYDNEY, Australia, Feb 5, (Reuters): Michael Lynagh, Australian Rugby Union's most prolific points scorer, rejected an estimated one million Australian dollar (\$770,000) offer to switch codes to Rugby League today.

"It was tempting, but I've still got a bit to do for rugby union yet," said the veteran of 36 international matches who has scored more than 450 points for his country.

Lynagh, who was offered a three-year contract by struggling north Sydney in New South Wales, the heartland of Australian Rugby League, said the code appealed to him.

"The two games are similar. It would be nice to see how I would go playing league and whether I could reach the same level of success as I have playing rugby (union)."

"But for now, I'm still enjoying rugby," said Lynagh, who has received several offers to switch to League in both Australia and Britain in recent years.

Queensland State Rugby Union coach John Connolly said he was relieved to learn of Lynagh's decision. "There are only a certain number of Michael Lynaghs in this lifetime and we can ill-afford to lose him."

NCCT vs Pakistan Cavaliers at the KCL Ground: Pakistan Cavaliers 131 for 9 in 24 overs. NCCT 132 for 1 in 18.1 overs. NCCT won the match by 9 wickets.

NCCT vs New Indian School at the GCL Ground: NCCT were 12 for 5 in 24 overs whereas NISCT were able to manage only 119 all out in 23.4 overs (Neil J. 49 runs).

Cardinals overcome Giants

THE Giants suffered their first loss in the Kuwait Little League this season when they lost to the Cardinals on Friday.

The Cardinals were ready and Hisham Navarro started the team off with a home run in the first inning and later hit a triple and a single earning 3 RBIs for his team. Nasser Al Wogayan hit a double bringing in RBI. Fahad Al Mithin was walked each time at bat, but was able to score 3 out of 4 times. Cardinals pitcher Sultan Mahrabeh did a fine job for his team.

The Giants started off strong as usual, but were held in the third and fourth innings. Yoichi Ito hit a triple along with Jun Yoshimura, Masato Wataabe, and Masaki Nagashima. It was the defense of the Cardinals that kept the Giants from coming that being run. The final score: Giants 9 Cardinals 10.

The Dodgers and Rangers gave their fans an exciting game especially in the first inning. Dodgers scored 4 runs in the first inning, but were held to no scores the rest of the game.

The Rangers scored 3 runs the first inning but in the third inning Rusty Stomach hit a home run earning 2 RBIs. At the end of 3 innings the Rangers beat the Dodgers 8-4.

The Pirates and Orioles showed some excellent baseball. Both teams offense and defense looked great. Cory Fox hit two home doubles, unfortunately no runners were able to score. Ryan Fox also hit a double earning 2 RBIs for the team.

The Pirates looked strong. Waqar Hashbi hit a double as did Firas Alani. Mazin Shadi hit a triple bringing Firas home. The Pirates were able to out score the Orioles 7-5.

The Mariners and Astros went at it in a fine display of baseball skills. The two Minor league teams are improving each week. It's a pitching game in the minors and the Astros managed to have enough batters walk and score.

The Mariners did have some hits. Hiroyuki Suzuki hit a single and a double. Nobuharu Nano hit a single, and Hisham Abdel Hamid hit 2 singles. Only Hiroyuki and Ziad Sakleh were able to score for the team. The Astros won 6-2.

Results
T-ball
Cubs 31 Tigers 1
Braves 11
Mariners 2 Astros 9
Mariners 9 Blue Jays 9
Dodgers 4 Rangers 7
Giants 9 Cardinals 10
Pirates 7 Orioles 5

Home-run hitters: Hisham Navarro, Cardinals; Rusty Stomach, Rangers; Mazin Al Khabbez, Mets.

AC Milan stun coach

'Weekend to decide title'

AC MILAN coach Arrigo Sacchi is used to watching his team beat the best but even he was stunned when they staged a remarkable recovery from two goals down to beat Fiorentina 3-2 in an Italian League soccer match on Sunday.

Showing the stuff that made them European and World Cup champions, Milan turned the match around in 11 minutes of the second half with one goal from Alberigo Evani and two from the penalty spot by Dutchman Marco van Basten.

"For the first time at Milan I thought 'If we get a draw I'll be happy,'" Sacchi said after the match.

"Then there was that masterful quarter of an hour... we're made like that. It's part of our mentality."

Rising star Roberto Baggio had put Fiorentina in front from the penalty spot in the first half and then set up the second from Czechoslovak Lubos Kubik just after the interval.

The result left Milan three

points behind League leaders Napoli, who won 3-0 at home to Cremonese, at the start of a week that could take them to the top of the League.

Milan recoup a game in hand against bottom club Verona on Wednesday and then play Napoli at home on Sunday.

"That is the match that will probably decide the title," Argentine World Cup captain Diego Maradona said of the Sunday clash after scoring twice in Napoli's victory.

The two clubs are favourites for the title in a race reminiscent of the 1987-88 season when Milan beat Napoli 3-2 with two games to go and went on to win the championship.

"I don't agree with people who say it's an important match but not decisive. For me it really is decisive," said Maradona, showing a return to fitness ahead of the World Cup finals.

Milan, unruffled by the long-term absence of Dutch international Ruud Gullit, have

reaped 23 points from their last 12 League games and Van Basten, European Footballer of the Year, has scored seven goals in his last four matches.

In Belgium, champions Mechelen, who play AC Milan in next month's European Cup quarterfinals, suffered their first defeat of the season, losing 3-0 at Bruges who own head the standings.

The duel between French leaders Bordeaux and champions Marseille resumed on Sunday after a seven-week winter break. Both clubs had to settle for 1-1 draws at St Etienne and Montpellier respectively.

The Dutch title race looks like becoming the traditional fight between champions PSV Eindhoven and Ajax after a sparkling performance by the Amsterdam team at the weekend.

Ajax, hoisted by leaders PSV's 3-1 defeat at second-placed Roda JC, surged to a 4-0 victory at home against FC Twente, leapfrogging their opponents into third place.

Manzar Hussain, a well-known cricketer and highly-respected umpire of cricket matches in Kuwait, died of heart attack yesterday morning. He was 44.

After coming to Kuwait in 1976, Manzar who hails from Lucknow, India, played continuously for the Rangers Cricket Club until Friday, when he scored 33 not out in a Burd Trophy league match against the Mughal Cricket Club.

The best performance of Manzar, known for his gentlemanly behaviour and leg-span excellence, was in the Bhutto Memorial Cricket Tournament where he bagged six wickets against Lanka Colts last October.

The body of Manzar, who is survived by his wife and three sons, will be flown to Iraq tomorrow for burial.

Paez retains crown
LAS VEGAS, Feb 5, (AP): Jorge Paez was the clown, but Troy Dorsey almost had the last laugh yesterday.

Paez, weakened by weight and stomach problems, had to rely in the late rounds to capture a 12-round split decision over Dorsey and return his International Boxing Federation featherweight title.

The colourful Paez captured the final four rounds on the card of one judge to avoid an upset to the 6-1 underdog and make the sixth successful defense of his 126-pound title.

"I'm not really accustomed to fighting like this," said Paez, who doubles as a clown in his grandmother's circus in Mexico. "I've been sick to my stomach for the last week but I didn't want to disappoint the promoters and my fans so I did my best."

His best was almost not good enough against the onrushing Dorsey, a former kickboxing champion



Manzar Hussain

Umpire dies

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fighting for only the 14th time. Dorsey took the fight to the Mexican champion, and kept him on the ropes through most of the fight. But he was never able to hurt Paez and the champion scored effectively with counter punches late in the bout.

"I'm lost for an answer to why they gave him the fight," Dorsey said. "I was the aggressor. I had him on the ropes the entire time. I threw four times as many punches as he did."

Judge Robert Byrd and Juan Jose Ramirez favoured Paez by 114-113 margins, while judge Dave Moretti had Dorsey ahead 115-113.

Dorsey, of Houston, would have won the fight if he hadn't been knocked down by Paez with a left hook in the second round. Although he was up immediately, the knockdown cost him 10-8 rounds on all three ringside scorecards.

"I was just stunned a little bit," Dorsey said.



Paez (right) lands a left on Dorsey. (Reuters wirephoto)

Martin stuns Joyner-Kersey

Herold surprises O'Sullivan

FAIRFAX, Va., Feb 5, (Reuters): Jens-Peter Herold of East Germany withstood a strong charge from Ireland's Marcus O'Sullivan to win the mile run at the Fairfax Grand Prix Athletics meeting.

Herold took the lead midway through the race and built a 12-metre margin to finish in three minutes, 58.96 seconds to O'Sullivan's 4:00.39.

"I didn't want to let it come down to a sprint," said Herold, the Olympic bronze medalist at 1,500 metres. "Marcus is too strong, so I had to be aggressive."

American Arthur Blake surprised his esteemed countrymen in the 60-metre hurdle, crossing in 7.51 seconds to out-duel Greg Foster, Renaldo Nehemiah and Roger Kliggdom.

Blake, a strong starter, left the blocks just ahead of Foster, who was second in 7.56.

Lavonna Martin of the United States upset American Jackie Joyner-Kersey in the women's 60-metre hurdles. Martin, who also beat Joyner-Kersey in the Millrose Games at New York on Friday, attributed her 7.99-second performance to her competition.

"Having Jackie in the race just makes you want to push harder," Martin said.

Romanians swept the women's distance events as Doina Melinte won the 800 to 2:00.13 minutes and Victoria Ghican captured the mile in 4:27.10.

Both runners used exceptional finishing kicks to defeat their accomplished rivals. Melinte held off East Germans Christine Wachtel and Sigrid Wodars, the Seoul Olympics gold and silver medal-

ists respectively. Ghican outspun teammates Margareta Keszeg and Soviet Svetlana Kitova down the final backstretch.

Hungary's Istvan Bagyula, a student in the United States, won the pole vault, setting a national record at 5.70 metres.

American Butch Reynolds, the world outdoor record holder at 400 metres, was beaten at that distance by Clarence Daniel of the United States. Daniel ran 46.28 seconds to Reynolds's sub-par 47.31.

In Stuttgart, West Germany, American Danny Everett shaved one hundredth of a second off the 400 metres world indoor record in a blistering run at the Stuttgart Indoor Athletics Meeting yesterday.

Everett held off compatriot Danny Harris to clock 45.04 seconds and break the record set by East German Thomas Schoenlebe two years ago on another West German track in Sindelfingen.

Everett, Olympic bronze medalist in Seoul in 1988, said afterwards the record-breaking run had come as a total surprise and he could go much faster.

"I only arrived last night and wasn't specially prepared," he said. "With special training I'm sure I could get under 45."

Everett's run was the highlight of a meeting which saw very few world-class performances.

In the women's 60 metres world indoor champion Nellie Fiere-Cooman of the Netherlands was forced into second place by 0.01 seconds by East Germany's Silke Moeller. Moeller clocked 7.25 seconds.

من ١٠ - ٢١ فبراير ١٩٩٠

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BKME overwhelm Evergreen

THE Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East (BKME) moved closer to retaining the Arabian Thursday League title with crushing 45-run win over Evergreen at the KOC Oval ground on Thursday.

BKME won the toss and elected to bat first with opener Ashfaq and Ronnie Sr. These two put on 39 runs off six overs before Ronnie was bowled by Arshad for 15. Ayub and Ramesh departed in quick succession scoring 1 and 2 respectively. Ashfaq at the other end displayed superb strokes, belting Amjad for a six and also hitting Zahid Butt twice over the fence. Such was Ashfaq's domination that when he was adjudged bow off Haider at the total score of 84 his contribution was 52.

Sandeep and Sethi carried on where Ashfaq left, showing scant respect to the Evergreen bowlers. These two put on 64 runs in 8 overs with Sandeep scoring 33 with 2 fours, and Sethi contributing 32 with a six and 2 fours.

BKME at the end of 24 overs piled up 166 for 6 with James and Bastaki the not out batsmen with 13 and 5 runs.

Evergreen began their reply with Zahid and Ashfaq. Zahid swinging his bat like a baseball bat managed to score 20 when his luck ran out with Sandeep holding on to a well-judged catch off Ronnie Jr. Ashfaq fell to a Sandeep-Ronny Jr. combination with Sandeep again taking a brilliant running catch. Amjad was caught at the wicket by Ashfaq off Salim for 15 and the same duo accounted for Chulian Haider for 10, which took the fight out of Evergreen. James yanked Waqar for 6 and Evergreen were struggling at 71 for 5. BKME kept up the pressure with Tariq having Sadakat caught by Salim for 16 and then bowling Shetad for no score. Smart fielding by Ronny Jr. ran out Jameel for 23. Shahbaz and Arshad followed running themselves out to end Evergreen's day of misery and their innings ended at 121 with a disappointed Asad Baig left stranded at the other end still trying to figure out where he went wrong.



Ashfaq: hit 52

Bollig second, Dick third

Wheeler lifts Honda Trophy

DAVID WHEELER (AMP) took home the Honda Challenge Trophy after an exciting day's racing at the Ahmadi Kart Tract on Friday. Second place fell to Tom Bollig (Halliburton) and third place to another new driver this season, Kieron Dick.

The Honda Challenge Trophy sponsored by Mutawa Al Kazi Company, is a handicap race, where each driver is seeded and awarded a bonus percentage, to be multiplied by their finishing position points. This meant that scorer Terry Slattery had to be handy with his calculator as well as keep a record of finishing positions. It also means that the race is open for anyone to win as coming over the line first does not mean winning the race!

A fair-sized crowd had turned out to grab some excitement from what was a cold, damp and overcast Friday with hot drinks doing good business in the cafeteria. The track-side marshals did a sterling job in standing out in the cold during the racing whilst some hot blooded driving took place on the track around them.

In the first of the day's races, joint second seed Lloyd spun out on the second bend after coming off worst in a battle with Haines and Wakely on the banked bend. Lloyd managed to restart only to collide with Langer a few laps later. Bollig led the field after the first lap but was to lose it to Haines in the lap that followed.

Bollig then spun out on the fifth lap handing second place over to Friesenegger (Mahdi Habib Comm. Est) with Kieron Dick stepping in to take third. On the ninth lap Haines came to grief when his engine seized and a rear sprocket holder cracked.

The lead now passed to Friesenegger, who held his position to the finish line, with Dick second in a season best performance. Wakely third and novice driver Wheeler fourth. With the addition of the bonus points system Kieron Dick led the challenge with 16.7 points followed by Friesenegger (16.1) and Wheeler (15.6).



The top three finishers on the victory stand. From left: Bollig, Wheeler and Duck.

The second heat saw the three top seeded drivers, Friesenegger, Lloyd and Haines, in a close tussle for first place. The chase lasted for two laps when on the third lap Haines passed Lloyd and closed up on Friesenegger. With Friesenegger holding a tight racing line Haines tried to make unavailable room to pass him. The karts locked together and Haines, out of track surface, thumped his rear wheel into a track-side tyre lifting his kart onto the hapless Friesenegger.

With both karts out of control they spun off the track. The race was to continue for only a few moments longer before it was clear that Friesenegger was in some difficulty and the red flag was waved to stop the race so that medical attention could be made available.

With Friesenegger off to hospital with a suspected broken arm, and his kart in a similar condition, early retirement for Peter from the day's event was inevitable. Haines, unscathed from the incident, joined the race re-run with Lloyd now on pole position and Dick on anti pole; both having crossed the start-finish line prior to the waving of the red flag. Lloyd held first position from the dummy grid to the flag.

Event leader Dick, spun off after completing only two laps and managed to take Haines with him who was at the time to close pursuit. Tom Bollig came home second whilst a stunning drive by Wheeler took third place from Wakely on the seventh lap. After calculation of the additional handicap points Wheeler now took over the event point lead with a total of 32.5 points, Wakely moved up to second on 29.8 points and bollig third on 28.8.

Heat 3 again saw Lloyd in the lead for the first three laps being chased by Haines with a few knocks and humps. Coming round club house corner Lloyd suffered engine problems and the rest of the field past him before he managed to redress the situation. Haines continued to open up his lead and carried on to be the first under the flag. Kieron Dick, in another good drive, passed Wakely on the fifth lap to come home second again with Wakely third. Novice driver Wheeler came home a respectable fifth to keep him on top of the handicap event with 46.8 points followed by Wakely on 45.3 and Bollig on 42.6.

With the final race approaching the race starter, Sandra Gardiner, the top seeded drivers, Haines and Lloyd were out of the competition for the Honda trophies. The top four places were now with Wheeler, Wakely, Bollig and Dick. Haines led after the first lap with Lloyd second but this was incidental, the race for the trophies was being decided further down the field. The decision on the placing was however not with the drivers but with their fortunes.

An unlucky Wakely was robbed of a start to the race when his chain snapped on the rolling lap which left him out of the placings for a trophy. Kieron Dick managed to complete two laps before he collided with Wheeler pushing them both out of the race. Tom Colclough in second place managed to hold off Bollig for four laps until a determined Bollig passed him on the fifth relegating Colclough to third place. Neil Gardiner, who had an unfortunate day of seizing engines and reshaping pistons with files, and Ray Washer, who suffered a bent rear axle in the first race of the day, finally got into the picture in this final race passing under the flag to fifth and sixth positions respectively.

Thus the day ended with Wheeler's unassailable total of 58.5, holding good to the end, despite a last heat collision. Tom Bollig in a final heat rush took second place with 57.6 points, and Dick, who managed to scrape enough points together to the final heat, took overall third place with 51.2 points. Tom Colclough soaked home to fourth place followed by Lloyd, Haines, Wakely, Gardiner, Langer, Washer and a bruised but not broken Friesenegger.

The Honda Challenge Trophies were presented by Honda's Mike Devey who had enjoyed a good day's racing with plenty of excitement and surprises and thanks were passed from the club to Honda for their support.

The next meeting at Ahmadi Kart Track is on Feb 16, 1990 for the next round of the Ahmadi Challenge Cup and the Kuwait National Drivers Championship. The next ladies race always a popular event, will be on Feb 23.

Jaguars take top positions at Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida, Feb 5, (UPI) Jaguar drivers Davy Jones, Jan Lammers and Andy Wallace won the 24 hours of Daytona for International Motor Sports Association cars yesterday finishing four laps ahead of teammates Price Cobb, John Nielsen and Martin Brundle to make the English automaker the only manufacturer other than Porsche to win the race than once.

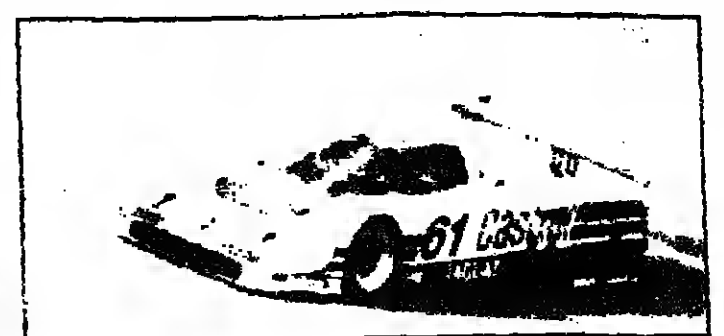
The triumph was the second in three years for the Tom Walkinshaw racing Jaguar team, as Brundle, Nielsen and Raul Boesel won in 1988 in the US Debut of Jaguar's factory-backed team.

The winners completed a record 761 laps, covering 2,709.16 miles (4,359.83 km) breaking the old lap record of 753 set in 1987 by Chip Robinson, Derek Bell, Al Holbert and Al Unser Jr in a Porsche. The time of the race was 24 hours, 19, 049 seconds, the winner's average speed was 112.857 mph (181.620 kph) and the margin of victory was four laps plus 54.115 seconds.

Finishing third was the pole-sitting Porsche 962 of Bob Wollek, Sarel van der Merwe and Dominic Dobson, which came home six laps behind the winners. Another Porsche 962, this one driven by Hans Stuck, Hurley Haywood, Rene Herzog and Harold Gries, finished fourth.

Finishing fifth overall and first in the GTO Division was the Mercury Cougar XR-7 of Robby Gordon, Calvin Fish, Robert Lappalainen and Lynn St James.

Lammers, of the Netherlands, and Wallace, of England, were part of Jaguar's winning entry in the 1988 24 hours of Le Mans along with Johnny Dumas.



Lammers drives his Jaguar XJR-12 across the finish line to win the race (Reuters wirephoto)



First bullfight

Julio Vega 'Maniseno' holds his place for the charge of this lightning bull in the first bullfight of the season on Sunday in Valdemarillo, Spain (Reuters wirephoto)

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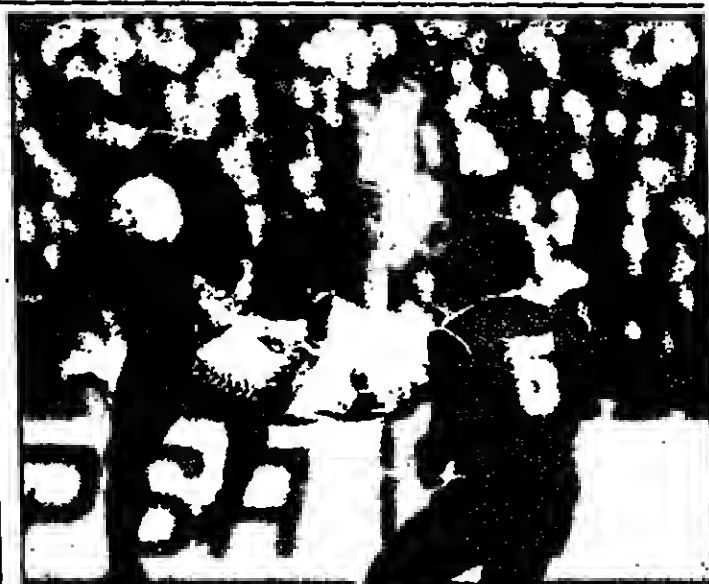


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Sanchez (centre) goes up for a scissor kick. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sanchez sent off

MADRID, Feb 5, (Reuters): Leading goalscorer Hugo Sanchez was sent off as Real Madrid dropped their first home point of the season yesterday, drawing 1-1 with Real Mallorca in a bad-tempered Spanish League soccer game.

But nearest rivals Barcelona and Atletico Madrid failed to cash in. Barcelona lost 1-0 at Castellon while Atletico went down 2-1 away to Sevilla on Saturday.

Valencia, 2-0 winners at Cadiz, have moved up to third spot, level on points with Barcelona and Atletico but six behind Real.

Sanchez's exit came in the 66th minute after two warnings - the first for aggressive tackling and the second for arguing with the referee.

Mallorca's Moroccan goalkeeper Badou Ezaki later alleged the Mexican World Cup striker had taunted him with racist comments.

Real forwards missed early chances and it was defender Fernando Hierro who gave them the lead from a 32nd minute free kick.



Nafez receives his prize

Nafez and Lyn win

THE Dunhill Annual Bowling Tournament was held at the 300 Bowling Club at the Bisher Al-Kazemi Towers recently. This year's event attracted many bowlers from various clubs in Kuwait. 120 bowlers from the KOC Bowling Club, various sea clubs as well as the regular 300 Club members took part in the tournament which featured an open championship for men and another for ladies. The final results were as follows:

Ladies: 1st 1084, Lyn Hayes; 2nd 1072, Nitz Alinea; 3rd 1066, Randa Peter; 4th 1051, Malou Tadana; High Game 21, Randa Peter; Lowest 731, Baby Militante. Men: 1st 1505, Nafez Al Akhras; 2nd 1505, Anukit; 3rd 1501, Mohammed Seraj; 4th 1493, Mohammad Al Amer; 5th 1489, Waleed Al Zenki; 6th 1479, Nashed Mohamed; High Game 237, Waleed Al Zenki; Lowest 941, Sadiq Al Awadi.

Bedi seeks Vengsarkar to reinforce side

New Zealand rout India



Hadlee (left) jumping with joy after taking his 400th wicket, of Sanjay Manjrekar (right). (Reuters wirephotos)

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb 5, (Reuters): New Zealand went one up in their three-Test series against India today, winning the first cricket Test on the fourth day by 10 wickets with one day to spare.

Needing only two runs in their second innings after they had bowled India out for 296, New Zealand had the match wrapped up in five balls after lunch.

Pace bowler Richard Hadlee, who took his 400th wicket in Test cricket on the third day, took the last Indian wicket and ended up with four for 69.

Hadlee was later presented the ball with which he made cricket history yesterday. The presentation was made by his father Walter, himself a former New Zealand captain.

India, who were to bat a man short because of the injury to Navtej Singh Sidhu, started the day at 210 for five, needing another 85 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

This margin was reduced by no more than 32 runs when Kapil Dev, who was bent on attack and took the most flagrant liberties, even with Hadlee, was dismissed.

After hitting Hadlee for a four and six, Kapil, in the same over, missed a mighty beave to leg and was leg before.

Kapil's partner, Raman, who was 89 then, seemed to fear running out of partners before he reached his hundred and tried to

hurry his way to the landmark. In the process, he took one risk too many and at 96, mistimed a pull at Danny Morrison to be caught at mid-wicket.

Raman must have regretted his haste for Venkatapathy Raju, who had batted so well in his role as night watchman in the first innings, again offered tough resistance, as did Atul Wasson, batting at number nine.

They kept the New Zealand bowlers at bay for more than an hour and looked almost impen-

nable until the second new ball was taken.

Then Raju was undermined by a ball from Martin Snedden which both lifted and cut away to induce an edge to wicketkeeper Ian Smith.

Hadlee then wound up the innings by having last man Narendra Hirwani caught at second slip.

The Indians obviously took their defeat to heart because right after the end of the match, they

were hard at practice.

Their cricket manager, Bishen Singh Bedi, said: "The boys have not really earned themselves a rest and we will be having a full workout tomorrow."

Meanwhile, Bedi awaited response from the chairman of India's selectors to his request that former captain Dilip Vengsarkar, who was controversially left out from the original party, be sent out to reinforce the side in the wake of Sidhu's injury.

Bedi said: "The doctor feels

that it will be four weeks before Sidhu can play again. But we are not sending him home right away.

We want to see what progress he makes in the next week, for we badly need him for the one-dayers."

Scoreboard

CRICKET TEST BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND INDIA ON MONDAY: NEW ZEALAND first innings 459

INDIA first innings 164

INDIA second innings (210 for five over)

W. Raman c Jones b Morrison 96

M. Prabhakar b Snedden 40

S. Manjrekar b Hadlee 4

M. Azharuddin b Bracewell 30

K. More b Hadlee 11

S. Tendulkar c Smith b Bracewell 24

Kapil Dev lbw b Hadlee 25

S. Venkatapathy Raju c Smith b Snedden 21

A. Wasson not out 24

N. Hirwani c Bracewell b Hadlee 0

N. Sidhu absent (injured)

Extras (b-6, lb-2, nb-13) 21

Total (for five wickets) 296

Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-85, 3-135, 4-180, 5-206, 6-242, 7-254, 8-289, 9-296

Bowling: Hadlee 22.5-39-4, Morrison 19-0-94-1, Snedden 25-5-59-2, Rutherford 5-0-21-0, Bracewell 20-3-45-2

NEW ZEALAND second innings

M. Snedden not out 1

D. Morrison not out 1

Total (for no wickets) 2

Bowling: Prabhakar 05-0-2-0

Man of the match: John Wright

Result: New Zealand won by ten wickets

The second Test will be held at Napier on Feb 9 and the third will be at Auckland on Feb 22



Miandad becomes fifth highest scorer

SYDNEY, Feb 5, (Reuters): Javed Miandad became Test cricket's fifth highest scorer on Monday as his 50 partnership with captain Imran Khan brought some stability to Pakistan's first innings in the third Test against Australia.

Pakistan, trying to level the three-test series, were 110 for five when bad light halted play 20 minutes early on the third day. The first two days play were abandoned after torrential rain from cyclone nancy.

Australian Cricket Board officials said the match would be extended by a day to end on Thursday.

Imran and vice-captain Miandad came together when Pakistan were struggling at 51 for four. They added 55 before Miandad was out for 49 after ballooning a catch to Dean Jones in the gully off the bowling of Merv Hughes.

He batted for 233 minutes and hit five fours. Miandad, whose stand threatened to rob the home side of the advantage of their early wickets, overtook West Indian Viv Richards' total of 7,849 Test runs when he moved to eight with two runs behind square leg off Terry Alderman.

Play began 75 minutes late today as ground staff dried out the ground.

Australian captain Allan Border asked Pakistan to bat first on a pitch that had sweated for several days under covers and which threatened surprises.

They started badly, losing two wickets in the 45 minutes of play before lunch.

Rameez Raja was out without scoring when Merv Hughes snapped up a caught and bowled chance by his knees and Shoaib Mohammad was trapped leg before by Terry Alderman for nine.

The third wicket fell at 20 soon after lunch in controversial circumstances.

Aamer Malik was out caught behind by Iain Healy off Alderman for seven but the batsman clearly felt the ball had touched only his pad. He punched his pad in disgust when the umpire gave him out and stood at the wicket for several seconds before slowly walking away.

Ejaz Ahmed, who almost saved his side from defeat in the first Test with a gritty century, was out for eight at 51 when a rising delivery from Carl Rackemann caught the shoulder of his bat, offering a simple chance to Mark Taylor at second slip.

The wickets were shared between the Australian fast bowlers with Alderman taking two for 33, Hughes two for 36 and Rackemann one for 18 off 15 overs.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN first innings

Aamer Malik c Healy b Alderman 7

Rameez Raja c and b Hughes 9

Shoaib Mohammad lbw b Alderman 29

Javed Miandad c Jones b Hughes 49

Ejaz Ahmed c M. Taylor b Rackemann 8

Imran Khan not out 27

Wassim Akram not out 4

Extras (lb-4, nb-2) 6

Total (for five wickets) 110

Fall of wickets: 1-2-15, 2-13, 3-20, 4-51, 5-100

To bat: Salim Yousuf, Iqbal Ahmed, Nadeem Ghauri, Waqar Younis

Bowling: Alderman 21-5-33-2 (1nb), Hughes 21-12-36-2 (1nb), Rackemann 15-6-18-1, P. Taylor 4-0-19-0

France ponder their future

PARIS, Feb 5, (Reuters): A perplexed French team, their hopes of retaining the Five Nations title wrecked and their World Cup preparations in tatters, pondered their uncertain future on today after Saturday's 26-7 humiliation by England in Paris.

"The end of a reign," proclaimed the sports daily L'Equipe on its front page, describing the home team's performance more pointedly in an inside column as the "French disconnection."

Players and officials, recognising they were beaten by a far superior team, wondered aloud just where their once-so-mighty XV was heading after the debacle at the Parc des Princes.

"I just don't understand how we could be so ridiculous," flanked Laurent Rodriguez said. "When you concede so many points in the tournament, especially at the Parc, you wonder what you want on the pitch for."

"The difference between the teams was enormous. We have no excuses to offer. We were devoured by their collective performance and we could do nothing."

"After this match, I wonder if we know how to play rugby because we made so many errors."

Hussain reprimanded after dissent

England opt for batting practice

BASSETERRE, St Kitts, Feb 5, (Reuters): Nasser Hussain received a reprimand from captain Graham Gooch for a display of dissent in the first controversial incident of England's Caribbean cricket tour in a match against the Leeward Islands yesterday.

Hussain, youngest member of the England party, appealed when he was given out by umpire Clancy Mack, claiming a catch at silly-point off Noel Guishard had not carried to substitute fielder Lesmie Lake.

Hussain started to walk but was called back sportingly by stand-in skipper Richie Richardson. Three overs later he was adjudged lbw to a Keith Arthurton shooter although he clearly thought he had got an edge on to his pad.

Tour manager Peter Lush revealed after the close of play that Gooch had reprimanded Hussain, who had apologised to the umpires for his display of dissent as well as Richardson.

The England management said any punishment meted out to Hussain would not be made public.

England had gained a first innings lead of 188, thanks to some fine bowling by opening

bowlers Gladstone Small and Devoe Malcolm, but decided against enforcing the follow-on.

By the close of the third and penultimate day they had extended their lead to 300 after scoring 112 in their second innings for the loss of four wickets.

Small was the best of the England bowlers, finishing with four for 75, but it was Malcolm who ripped the heart out of the Leeward's middle order when he dismissed Ralston Otto and Hamish Anthony with the second and fourth balls of the day.

Otto was lbw for 18 playing across the line while Anthony lost his middle stump after he was beaten by pace and movement back off the seam when he should have been forward.

Small struck the most important blow when Richardson, who had been kept away from the strike, attempted to pull and was caught by the bowler.

Richardson had added just two runs to his overnight 81 and hit 15 fours and a six in his 87-ball stay.

Small also broke a frustrating eight-wicket stand of 76 between Guishard and Eldine Baptiste when he found the outside edge

of Guishard's bat with an outswinger to give Russell his first catch of the match.

Malcolm finished off the innings when he yorked Baptiste to finish with three for 86. Baptiste struck 10 fours in a defiant 61 made from only 58 balls.

Gooch decided not to enforce the follow-on to give Rob Bailey the chance to bat at number three and to try to take advantage of the increasingly low bounce of the wicket by leaving the Leeward's most of the final day to survive.

Bailey, however, failed for the second time in the match after Gooch and Wayne Larkins had again given England a good start with a stand of 68.

Bailey was caught at silly-point off bat and pad for 10 by substitute Lake off occasional left-arm spinner Arthurton in the over following the flare-up with Hussain.

Guishard accounted for Larkins and Gooch, Larkins trying to sweep a ball off stump and missing and Gooch giving a return catch off a leading edge.

The England captain made 50 from 111 balls and was never remotely tested by the Leeward's seam attack.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND first innings 444 for 6 declared (Alec Stewart 125, Wayne Larkins 107, R. Smith 71)

LEEWARD ISLANDS first innings (overnight 138 for 3)

R. Baesue lbw b Small 21

R. Richardson c and b Small 83

K. Arthurton lbw b De Freitas 7

R. Otto lbw b Malcolm 18

H. Anthony b Malcolm 0

L. Harrie c Malcolm b De Freitas 19

E. Baptiste b Malcolm 61

N. Guishard c Russell b Small 21

W. Benjamin not out 0

K. Benjamin absent injured 0

Extras (b-3 lb-8 w-3 nb-11) 25

Total 256

Fall of wickets: 1-2-20, 2-40, 3-72, 4-138, 5-138, 6-148, 7-172, 8-248, 9-256

Bowling: Malcolm 23-4-86-3, Small 23-5-75-4, De Freitas 14-5-53-2, Medleycott 5-0-31-0

ENGLAND second innings

G. Gooch c and b Guishard 50

R. Richardson c Guishard 27

R. Bailey c sub (Lake) b Arthurton 10

N. Hussain lbw b Arthurton 10

R. Smith not out 2

A. Stewart not out 2

Extras (b-4 lb-6 w-1) 11

Total (for four wickets) 112

To bat: J. Russell, P. De Freitas, K. Medleycott, G. Small, D. Malcolm

Fall of wickets: 1-68, 2-91, 3-101, 4-108

Bowling: Baptiste 6-1-14-0, Anthony 9-1-23-0, Guishard 18-2-29-2, Richardson 8-3-21-0, Arthurton 14-5-15-2

Uruguay beat Costa Rica in final

Columbian coach gets death threat

MIAMI, Feb 5, (Reuters): William Castro and Sergio Martinez scored two goals to the first 11 minutes yesterday to guide Uruguay to a 2-0 victory over Costa Rica in the championship game of a four-nation soccer tournament.

Colombia beat the United States 2-1 in a penalty shootout in the Orange Bowl to take third place in the tournament between four teams which will play in the World Cup finals this summer in Italy.

Castro, who also scored in Friday's 2-0 win over Colombia, effectively ended the match with the first of two goals in a six-minute spell.

After just five minutes, US referee Vincent Mauro judged that Pedro Pedrucci had been brought down in the corner of the penalty box, and Castro slammed the ball high into the net from the spot as goalkeeper Jorge Hidalgo dived the wrong way.

Martinez added the second after 11 minutes, firing in a shot from about 10 yards that a defender could only help into the back of the net.

After that Uruguay played efficient, well-drilled soccer and stifled all attempts by the fast-running Costa Ricans to mount a comeback.

Both defences were so much in command that neither team managed a shot on goal to the



Daniel Fonseca (centre) of Uruguay intercepts the ball between Costa Rica's Alexis Comacho and Mauricio Montero. (Reuters wirephoto)

second half.

The Colombians outscored the United States 9-8 on penalty kicks after the match ended 1-1.

The Americans briefly enjoyed the lead at 8-7 but they missed their last two kicks.

Erie Wynalda, a 20-year-old college student starting on the senior US squad for the first time, put the home team ahead after three minutes when he raced through the centre to collect a pass by John Stollmeyer and prodded the ball past the goalkeeper.

Colombia tied the score after 24 minutes when Caoasian referee Tony Evangelista ruled

that goalkeeper Kasey Keller, like Wynalda making his senior debut, had taken too many paces in the penalty area.

Luis Fernando Herrera touched the indirect freekick to Alfonso whose shot glanced off the wall of defenders into the net from 15 yards.

The Colombian team barred entrance to their locker room and had guards posted outside following a death threat made in Colombia against the team's coach.

A taped message sent to a radio station demanded that players from clubs allegedly linked to laundering drug money be

barred from the national team and that if the demand was ignored, coach Francisco Maturana would be killed.

The message is reported to have singled out four clubs it said were being used to launder drug money — Nacional, America Cali, Medellin and Millonarios Bogota.

There was concern the team would stop playing after Maturana was quoted by the Colombian newspaper El Tiempo as saying he may stop the team's activities in the face of death threats.

But in a statement in Miami, where Colombia was playing against three other World Cup teams, the Colombian federation said it was "conscious of its enormous commitment as a nation to the international soccer organisation."

"It will therefore continue with its plans to undertake all programmes of preparation for Italy 1990," the statement said.

However it added that it was asking for the support of the Colombian government and people to create "a climate which will be favourable to the work of the Colombian national team."

"Starting (on Tuesday), there will be a work recess for the Colombia national team upon its return home," it said.

Colombian officials promised that the team would play as scheduled in a tournament in Los Angeles on February 20.

Italians put Swedes out of Davis Cup

Swedes out of Davis Cup

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, Feb 5, (Reuters): Paolo Cane of Italy beat Mats Wilander 7-5 in a cliff-hanging final set of their reverse singles today to send Sweden out of the Davis Cup world group in the first round.

In a "sudden death" finish to four days of high drama, the 24-year-old Italian rallied repeatedly from adversity to clinch the decisive match 6-4 3-6 4-6 7-5 7-5 after it had been suspended at two sets all because of bad light yesterday.

Cane's victory over the world number 10 gave Italy the 3-2 lead and put Sweden, finalists for seven consecutive years and champions four times, out of the Davis Cup in the first round for the first time since the world group format was adopted in 1981.

Cane, the only player in Cagliari to be involved in the singles and doubles, was mobbed by team-mates and fans who surged on to the clay court after his victory. He was hoarse shoulder high from the sunny area.

Cheered on by chants of "Paolo, Paolo", he capitalised on a nervous start by Wilander to sweep to a 3-0 fifth set lead only to be forced back to 3-3 when the Swede slowed down the pace from the baseline.

Cane fought heavily in the 11th game returning what looked an impossible shot but got up to win his service with a desperate backhand on the same point and then broke back with a celebratory smash on the first of two match points.

"I certainly wouldn't want to play this match again," Cane, ranked 35th in the world, said afterwards.

Kuwait win 4-1

Kuwait beat Syria 4-1 in their Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone One preliminary round tie at the SAS Hotel late Sunday evening. The event had to be shifted from the Kuwait Tennis Federation courts at the Yarmouk Club due to rain on Sunday.

Kuwait got a good start on Friday when Khalid Ashkanani and Khalid Hassan Rashid won their singles matches. Kuwait's doubles tennis team completed the victory on Saturday.

A prize distribution ceremony was later held at the same venue. Top Kuwaiti Hassan Rashid with the trophy after receiving it from Sheikh Ahmed Al Jaber. Right: The head of the Syrian delegation receives a shield.



Cunningham clinches Korean Cup

ERNEST CUNNINGHAM played his best golf of the season to clinch the Korean Cup on Friday at the Hunting and Equestrian Golf Club.

This annual event is sponsored by the Korean embassy, which attracted 75 golfers who contested for the trophy under the Stableford Scoring System where a birdie is awarded 3 points, par 2 points and bogie 1 point.

Despite strong cold winds which made ball control difficult, Cunningham scored 39 points which included 17 points on the front nine holes and ended with a strong finish on the back nine with 22 points. He had a birdie two on the par 3 thirteenth when his

tee shot landed 15 inches from the flag to also win the nearest to the pin contest.

Second place went to B.S. Chang who carded 38 points. Third place was shared by three golfers and it was won by Ken Watt with 37 points on a count-back from N. Edwards and D.R. Jang. Q. Qattani took sixth place with 36 points.

In side competition, the longest drive for women was won by Sigrid Sawires on the par 5 eleventh while P. Briggs took the men's trophy on the par 4 seventeenth.

Ambassador B.Y. Soh of the Republic of Korea presented the trophies to the winners.

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